THE TIMES

Wednesday November 16 2022 | thetimes.co.uk | No 73942

2G

£2.50 £2.00 to subscribers
(based on 7 Day Print Pack)



How I became more WAG

Fashion editor Harriet Walker

INSIDE TIMES2



Why Mike Tindall is jungle king

Carol Midgley

Life-saving cancer plan will slash waiting times for scans

Eleanor Hayward Health Correspondent

A radical NHS cancer plan will mean that tens of thousands of patients get their diagnoses earlier as GPs have been told to bypass hospital doctors and fast-track patients directly for scans.

The drive to speed up cancer care and reduce pressure on the NHS means that family doctors will now be able to refer patients with worrying symptoms straight for diagnostics such as brain MRIs, CT scans and blood tests.

This will cut out hospital consultants, who at present are seen for initial consultations before patients join another waiting list for a scan.

NHS England said the scheme, to be introduced nationally this month, would cut the typical waiting time between seeing a GP and getting a scan from twelve weeks to four. This will help patients start treatments earlier, improving long-term survival rates.

About 67,000 cancer patients a year will benefit from the shorter waits. The earlier diagnoses are expected to save thousands of lives and help to reduce backlogs caused by the pandemic.

Allowing GPs to bypass hospital specialists and book patients for scans will also free up hundreds of thousands of hospital appointments each year, so NHS staff can focus on bringing down record waiting lists of 7.1 million people.

The plan will not affect patients who present with "red flag" symptoms, such as breast lumps, who are already placed on an urgent cancer pathway to see a specialist and get tests within two weeks. The new scheme covers patients with more vague symptoms such as dizziness, persistent headaches or a loss of appetite.

At present one in five of all cancer diagnoses in England — 67,000 a year — are given to patients on a non-urgent testing pathway. However, many of these patients wait months for their

Continued on page 2

Russians blamed for fatal strike on Poland

- Missiles kill two in escalation of Ukraine war
- Blunder risks dragging Nato into conflict

George Grylls, Aliide Naylor
Marc Bennetts, Paulina Olszanka

Russia was blamed last night after missiles struck Poland in a big escalation of the war in Ukraine that threatened to put Nato allies in direct conflict with President Putin.

Two Polish citizens were killed in the attack on a farm in Przewodow, a village about four miles from Poland's eastern border, as Russia subjected Ukraine to the heaviest night of bombardment since the invasion.

An unnamed senior US intelligence official blamed the Kremlin for the stray missiles that landed in Poland. The White House and the Pentagon insisted it was too soon to point the finger of blame at Moscow directly.

Poland has been a Nato member since 1999. Under Article 5 of the defensive alliance, an attack on one country is considered to be an attack on all. Nato members do not necessarily need to issue a military response if one nation invokes Article 5. Under Article 4, countries can also respond to aggression by convening talks.

Rishi Sunak held an emergency call last night with his foreign secretary and defence secretary and said there was an urgent need to establish the origin of the attack. "We will support our allies as they establish what has happened," the prime minister said. "We are also coordinating with our international partners, including Nato."

Sunak also spoke to President Duda of Poland, expressing condolences for the victims and pledging "solidarity" with Britain's "close ally".

The Russian defence ministry denied responsibility and accused Poland of "a deliberate provocation" aimed at escalation. A spokesman said: "No strikes on targets near the Ukrainian-Polish state border were made by Russian means of destruction." Kyiv dismissed Russian claims that the explosion had been caused by a Ukrainian air defence missile, saying it was "a conspiracy theory" and "not true".

Mariusz Gierszew, a Polish journalist, said his sources thought that what hit Przewodow were most likely the fragments of a rocket shot down by Ukraine.

President Zelensky called on Nato allies to respond to the "significant escalation", adding: "The longer Russia feels impunity, the more threats there will be to anyone within reach of Russian missiles."

Mateusz Morawiecki, the Polish prime minister, called a meeting of his country's national security and defence committee amid fears that the war in Ukraine could spill over the border.

Duda spoke to President Biden and Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato secretary-general, to discuss a response as Poland

Continued on page 6

KAY NIETFELD/AVALON



Having a Bali Justin Trudeau, the Canadian prime minister, and Rishi Sunak at the G20 summit yesterday. Reports, pages 6-7

Egg rationing means a not-so-full English

Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

A full English breakfast without eggs may seem unthinkable, but that is the situation many face this week after shortages hit retailers and hospitality.

Shoppers reported shelves empty of eggs at supermarkets, and Wetherspoon admitted that it was offering alternatives on its breakfast menu.

Sainsbury's has apologised for the lack of eggs in some of its shops and at least one Lidl store was rationing supplies "to keep enough for everyone".

The shortage has been caused, in part, by the outbreak of avian flu, which has killed a million hens. Producers have also been leaving the industry as feed prices rise in response to the war in Ukraine and supermarkets' promise to stop using caged hens from 2025. Overall, egg production was down 9.6 per cent in the past quarter.

The British Free Range Egg Producers Association said supermarkets were not paying enough to produce eggs at a profit. It said: "Many of our members are losing money on every egg laid."

At present, 10 to 15 per cent of eggs eaten in the UK are from overseas and these are mostly used in food processing, but customers may soon find Polish eggs on supermarket shelves.

At Wetherspoon, customers are being offered hash browns, onion rings and chips in their breakfasts. A spokesman said: "There are temporary issues at some Wetherspoon pubs due to the impact of avian flu on egg production."

46

9 771742 498530

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights



8am **Sir Malcolm Rifkind**, right, former foreign secretary
12pm Deputy PMQs Unpacked with **Matt Chorley** and **Tim Shipman**
1.20pm **Zarifa Ghafari**, Afghan former mayor, on her documentary In Her Hands
3.35pm **Jane Garvey** and **Fi Glover** chat to **Emma Donoghue** about the new adaptation of her book The Wonder
8.35pm **Kait Borsay** hosts **Chris Difford** of Squeeze

TIMES RADIO
DAB RADIO ● ONLINE ● SMART SPEAKER ● APP

TODAY'S EDITION

Boy, 2, killed by mould in home

A two-year-old boy died from a severe respiratory condition as a result of exposure to mould in his home, a coroner has concluded. Awaab Ishak, from Rochdale, Greater Manchester, died shortly after his second birthday in December 2020. **Page 4**

Meghan: I was begged to fight

The Duchess of Sussex has revealed in the latest episode of her Spotify podcast, *Archetypes*, that before she married Prince Harry a "very influential" woman begged her not to give up her activism and her fight for women's rights. **Page 13**

Chemical to think quickly

Children's ability to acquire new skills has been linked to Gaba, a key chemical messenger in the brain that scientists believe could also help adults to become faster learners — and less likely to forget what they have learnt. **Page 19**

COMMENT
The cynicism of Russia's foreign minister symbolises a system sucked dry by one-man rule
ROGER BOYES, PAGE 28

Israeli defence chiefs rattled

Israel's defence establishment is concerned about attempts by Binyamin Netanyahu to give his allies from hard-right parties control over the army and police, which could stir further unrest in the Palestinian territories. **Page 34**

Million creditors owed by FTX

The collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX owes money to a possible one million creditors, according to court documents. It filed for bankruptcy last week after it faced billions in withdrawals and its rival Binance backed out of a rescue. **Page 37**

Ronaldo 'won't play for us again'

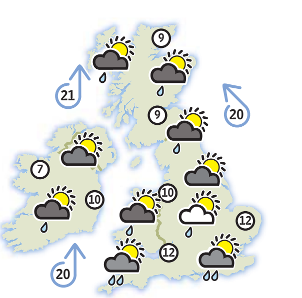
Erik ten Hag does not want Cristiano Ronaldo to play for Manchester United again and club chiefs agree the team are better without him. They are waiting to see all the Piers Morgan interview, done without the club's permission, to decide on action against him. **Page 69**

COMMENT 27 | WORLD 32 | SPORT 63
THUNDERER 28 | BUSINESS 37 | CROSSWORD 74
LEADING ARTICLES 31 | REGISTER 53 | TV & RADIO TIMES2

FOLLOW US
thetimes timesandsundaytimes thetimes

OFFER
Save more than 50% with a subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times
THETIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE

THE WEATHER



Sunny spells and scattered showers, with rain in Shetland and southern areas later. **Full forecast, page 61**

© TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 2022. Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Newsprinters (Knowsley) Ltd, Kitling Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters (Eurocentral) Ltd, Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Associated Printing (Carn) Ltd, Morton 2 Esky Drive, Carn Industial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YY; KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1WX, tel 01892 525274, e-mail copy@nla.co.uk. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888, e-mail enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk

Public sector workers hit hardest as wage gap widens

Oliver Wright Policy Editor

The gap between pay rises in the public and private sector has reached its highest ever level, it emerged yesterday, as Rishi Sunak called for firms to restrain wages to combat inflation.

An analysis by the Resolution Foundation, a think-tank, found that average pay grew by 5.7 per cent in cash terms in the three months to September. However, this masked big variations between public sector employees and those working for private firms.

In the private sector pay rose by 6.6 per cent, the strongest growth seen outside the pandemic since records began, although not enough to prevent pay packets shrinking by 2.7 per cent in real terms because of inflation.

Restraint in the public sector has restricted pay growth to 2.2 per cent in cash terms and minus 6.1 per cent in real terms creating the widest pay gap on record. The disparity will be emphasised today when the Office for National Statistics publishes its estimates for October's inflation rate. Most economists forecast that the latest data will show consumer prices index (CPI) inflation jumping to 10.7 per cent last month from 10.1 per cent in September. The rise comes after the increase in the energy price cap in October as a result of high wholesale prices because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, the rise in bills has been cushioned after the government stepped in to limit the increase in bills to about £2,500 for households.

Economists said that October's inflation rise was likely to be a peak after which rates are expected to fall.

Louise Murphy, an economist at the foundation, said that the consequences of inflation and public sector wage constraint in the long term would be to create an "unsustainable" pay gap that would lead to further pressures on public services as workers left to take better jobs in the private sector.

"Pay growth in the private sector has driven a huge wedge between private and public sector pay, which has been subject to very tight settlements," she said. "This wedge is unsustainable in the long run as it creates huge difficulties for recruiting and retaining public sector. With public services already stretched and job vacancies already at record highs, it will be hard for the chancellor to deliver a further period of sustained public sector pay restraint."

Sunak was challenged about pay growth in the financial sector and urged companies to show restraint and not award inflation-busting pay rises.

Defending the government against claims that public sector workers are being unfairly penalised in the effort to bring inflation under control, the prime minister said it was important for all companies to limit pay awards this year.

He added that the priority for the government was to prevent a "wage spiral" in which companies offered inflation-matching pay rises that made it harder to control price rises.

"In a situation like this I'm sure executives of most companies will be thinking about pay settlements for senior management, for their workers and making sure they are fair," he said. "That's what everyone would expect and I'm sure that's what most companies are doing. But I don't want to see a wage price spiral. It's not about me. It's about what's right for the country because if we do end up in a wage price spiral the people who are going to suffer the most are the people on the lowest incomes and we'll still be having this conversation in a year's time."

Cleverly cautious on Irish protocol

Oliver Wright

Britain and the European Union are still some way off an agreement to resolve their differences over the Northern Ireland Brexit deal, the foreign secretary has warned, despite optimism that a compromise is close.

James Cleverly said that, despite a "better atmosphere" at the talks, "big gaps" remained between the sides over how to modify the Northern Ireland protocol to remove restrictions on goods crossing between Britain and the province, among other things.

Cleverly told parliament's European scrutiny committee that the talks were "heading in the right direction" but that "good will and trust" were not enough.

"I don't think there is a long list [of challenges], but they are tough challenges," he said. "I'm just trying to make sure we manage expectations. I don't want people to be defeatist, but I also don't want people to run away with the idea that we are just on the cusp of some amazing breakthrough that was there all the time if only we had looked a little bit harder. There are some real challenges which need to be overcome."

The Democratic Unionist Party is boycotting the devolved institutions in protest against the protocol. The government has put back elections for the Stormont assembly to give more time to reach a deal with the EU.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Cancer waiting times

diagnoses, and in this time their cancer may spread and become incurable.

Announcing the change at the NHS Providers conference in Liverpool, Amanda Pritchard, chief executive of the NHS, is due say today: "By sending patients straight to testing, we can catch and treat more cancers at an earlier stage, helping us to deliver on our ambitions to diagnose three quarters of cancers at stages 1 or 2, when they are easier to treat."

The guidance will be sent to all GPs in England this month, telling them to use their clinical judgment to refer patients directly for scans and tests. Similar practices have been adopted by some local NHS trusts, but this is the first time they will be enforced nationwide.

Pilot studies have shown that hospital waiting times fall when GPs can refer directly. In 2018 the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust showed that direct access to CT scans for suspected lung cancer meant patients waited an average of 29 days instead of 66 from referral to treatment.

Professor Martin Marshall, chairman of the Royal College of GPs, said: "GPs are already doing a good job of appropriately referring patients with suspected cancers. However, there will be patients who might not meet the criteria for rapid referral … in these situations, direct access to diagnostic services can be helpful."

Richard Evans, chief executive of the Society of Radiographers, said: "The opportunity for primary care clinicians to refer cases that have concerning features directly for imaging could help to achieve an earlier diagnosis for many people and this has to be a good thing."

Experts said it was vital that NHS diagnostic hubs got more funding in tomorrow's autumn statement. Kruti Shrotri, head of policy at Cancer Research UK, said: "With capacity being drawn from community diagnostic centres, which are still being rolled out, it's vital that they are protected from funding cuts to ensure everyone benefits from these potentially life-saving tests."

NHS travails add to cancer patients' dread, Alice Thomson, page 29

Behind the story

In diagnosing cancer, every extra week can make the difference between life and death (Eleanor Hayward writes). The chances of survival depend on catching and treating the disease early, before it has spread around the body.

Nine in ten people diagnosed with bowel cancer at stage 1 survive, compared with only one in ten diagnosed at stage 4, the final stage. The NHS has a target of diagnosing three quarters of all cancers at 1 or 2 by 2028, but at present only 57 per cent are diagnosed at these stages.

Experts have said that decades of progress on cancer survival rates may go backwards thanks to Covid-19 backlogs. About 21,000 fewer people than would have been expected have started cancer treatment in England since the start of the pandemic, many of them thought to have put off getting help. In recent months there has been a surge in people seeing their GPs with cancer symptoms, and a record 255,055 were referred for a specialist cancer check in August.

The NHS is struggling to meet this rising demand. One in four with suspected cancer have to wait longer than the two-week target time to see a specialist, the worst figure on record.

Thousands are also waiting beyond the two-month target to start chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Charities have said these long waits are "traumatic, causing huge amounts of anxiety and potentially impacting chances of survival".

NHS bosses know that radical action is needed to tackle these delays, which cost lives. Today's announcement that GPs will be able to refer patients directly for cancer tests is a welcome step in cutting waiting times. Thousands will be spared anxious weeks stuck on hospital waiting lists, and get a diagnosis earlier — making it more likely they will survive.

Posh and decks: the England team's other halves check in to HMS Wag

Ben Clatworthy

With a crystal staircase, £6,000-a-week "royal" suites and luxury watch shops, it has all the glitz and glamour of any other hotel in Doha, the desert capital of Qatar. Except this one floats.

Spread over 22-decks, the brand new £1 billion MSC World Europa is the floating palace that will host the England players' wives and girlfriends at the World Cup. Among the facilities are 13 restaurants, seven pools, an 11-deck slide and a spa complete with a sub-zero "snow room".

There is also plenty of booze.

The ship has 20 watering holes, ranging from a traditional pub serving craft beer brewed on board to plush cocktail lounges, where drink flows from dawn to dusk, despite Qatar's strict policies relating to alcohol on land.

Nicknamed HMS Wag, it is one of two MSC Cruise ships the organising committee has chartered for the duration of the tournament. Among those expected to step up the gangway are Sasha Attwood, 26, girlfriend of the Manchester City star Jack Grealish, Anna Modler, 24, fiancée of the defender Eric Dier, and Marcus Rashford's fiancée, Lucia Loi.

The ship sleeps 6,762 passengers, who will include VIP guests of corporate sponsors as well as football fans who have splashed out £300 a night for a cabin.

However, the WAGs will make a beeline for the £6,000-a-week "royal" suites, giving them access to the exclusive Yacht Club, an intimate zone at the top of the ship with its own bar and restaurant, linked by a staircase set with more than 8,000 Swarovski crystals.

As well as two vast private sun decks, beach club-style cabanas, a swimming pool and two jacuzzis, a private butler will be on hand for those whiling away time between games.

Cristian Comirla, MSC's Yacht Club director, told *The Sun*: "The needs of every Yacht Club guest are anticipated 24 hours a day by our elite team of highly trained butlers. They will greet everyone by name and provide a totally personalised service."

The suites come with hot tubs, super-king beds, walk-in wardrobes and minibars chilling bottles of spirits and mixers. The even-grander Duplex suites have double-height ceilings.

There are more treats on the lower decks, including the "invitation-only" speakeasy, where a jazz band recreates the sounds of the 1920s. Passengers are granted access using a token that they must swipe on a phone on one of the decks. Scanning the token causes a telephone number to flash up. Dial it and one of the speakeasy's staff will unlock the door, revealing the exclusive area that was the talk of the ship during its naming ceremony this weekend.

Alcohol is permitted in international hotels in Qatar but the smart bars of the ship are a world away from the functional venues to be found on land.

The tournament's organisers said that supporters would be able to buy beer throughout the day and night at the Arcadia Spectacular Festival, which will feature a giant 50-tonne fire-breathing spider imported from Glastonbury, and drinks on tap for 19 hours a day between 10am and 5am.

The official Fifa Fan Festival will hold 40,000 people and is expected to charge fans about £5 for 500ml of Budweiser, the official beer sponsor, but only after 6.30pm.

The cruise ship will be open only to paying passengers, with Ibiza-style parties expected once darkness falls.

The World Galleria area is lined with boutiques, where the WAGs will be able to pick up a £22,000 1.02 carat yellow diamond ring, or a £53,000 solid-gold men's Hublot timepiece in one of two watch emporiums.

They'll just need to remember leave the ship to watch the action on the pitch.

England mean business, Sport, pages 70-74
How to be a WAG, Times 2

HASSAN AMMAR/AP; DAMIEN MEYER/GETTY IMAGES



The World Europa has every luxury to be enjoyed by the likes of Katie Kane, left with Harry Kane, Fern Maguire, right with Harry Maguire, and Sasha Attwood, girlfriend of Jack Grealish

The whole country's behind you, William tells Southgate's men

David Brown al-Wakra **Valentine Low**

England's footballers arrived in Qatar for the World Cup last night amid intense security after Prince William assured the team that the whole country was behind them.

The team received a noisy reception at their hotel, which is an area renowned for its nightlife, next to a mosque where daily calls to prayers begin at 4.29am and with a camel pen on the beach outside the players' rooms.

The local authorities are stirring up public excitement for the tournament with organised groups of local supporters being used to create atmosphere. They denied being paid "fake fans".

William, president of the Football Association, made a surprise visit to the team's training centre at St George's Park in Staffordshire on the eve of their departure to join the team's manager, Gareth Southgate, in revealing the players' numbers.

He told Harry Kane, the captain, and his team-mates: "We are all rooting for you. Enjoy it. What you and Gareth have built here is something special, that's clear to see. Play for each other, support each other, enjoy it, and I'm sure you'll go far."

William, now the Prince of Wales, has often attended England matches, including last year's European Championship final, at which he was joined by his son, Prince George.

A royal source defended the prince's continued support of England despite his new role. "It would be quite disingenuous for someone who hasn't been shy about supporting England his entire life to start changing his allegiances now — and I think any football fan would agree," the source said. "That said, Prince William is delighted and proud of the Welsh team for reaching their first World Cup since 1958. I have no doubt he will be showing his support to Wales and celebrating their great achievement."

Southgate raised his fist to acknowledge the support of 200 England fans who greeted his team at its five-star hotel in the resort of al-Wakra.

The team made a low key arrival in Doha on a Virgin Atlantic jet called Rain Bow, a symbol of LGBT pride, apparently chosen to highlight discrimination against homosexuals in Qatar. The team plays their opening game against Iran on Monday. Wales meet the USA later the same day.

Up to 5,000 fans are predicted to travel from England and 3,000 from Wales. They will be bolstered by the 20,000 expats who live in the country.

Qatar is also paying for groups of fans from each competing nation to deliver positive messages, sing certain songs and report critical social media posts. The England fans receive free flights and accommodation and £60 a day in spending money.

We're not fake fans, page 74

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES GLOSSOP



White beauty A unicorn has made its home in an enchanted wood at Stockeld Park, near Wetherby in Yorkshire, whose winter illuminations open on Saturday

Quintagram® No 1474

Solve all five clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Ancient embalmed body (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Piece of horse tack (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

3 Robustly jovial (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Irritated, miffed (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

5 Thrown away (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	B	C	D	D	D	D
D	E	E	E	E	H	I	I
I	L	M	M	M	P	Q	R
R	R	S	T	U	U	Y	Y

Solutions MindGames in Times2
Cryptic clues page 10 of Times2

Cleared of cone assault

A man has been cleared of assaulting Sir Iain Duncan Smith by slamming a traffic cone on his head during the Conservative Party conference last year. Judge Paul Goldspring said the evidence that identified Elliot Bovill, 32, of no fixed address, as the person caught on CCTV putting the orange and white cone on the former Tory leader was "tenuous". Sitting at Manchester magistrates' court, he acquitted Radical Haslam, 29, and Ruth Wood, 51, of using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour by shouting "Tory scum" as they followed Duncan Smith, 68, through the city.

Mould in flat killed two-year-old boy

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent

Michael Gove has said it "beggars belief" that a housing association boss is still in post after a landmark inquest ruled that a toddler died after prolonged exposure to mould in his home.

Awaab Ishak, two, died in December 2020 from a respiratory condition caused by mould in the one-bedroom flat where he lived with his parents in Rochdale, Greater Manchester.

Over a period of three years his father, Faisal Abdullah, had repeatedly raised the matter with Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH), a social housing provider, but no action was taken. On one occasion he was told simply to paint over the mouldy area.

Gove, the housing secretary, accused Gareth Swarbrick, the chief executive of RBH — a man he said was earning "north of £150,000" — of "hiding behind procedure" and summoned him to a meeting in London. "We all know that local authorities are facing challenging times when it comes to finance but, frankly, that is no excuse," Gove said.

"When you have got a situation where you have a young child in a house that is unfit for human habitation, it is a basic responsibility of the local authority — but particularly the housing association — to make sure that people are in decent homes.

"All this what-aboutery, all this 'oh, if only we had more government money' … do your job, man. Honestly, it beggars belief that this guy is still in office. He is coming here in order to explain to me why it was that this tragedy was allowed to happen."



Awaab Ishak died eight days after his second birthday

Downing Street said the circumstances that led to Awaab's death were "unacceptable". A spokeswoman said: "We will no longer stand for unresponsive landlords failing in their response to tenants."

Awaab, who his parents described as "full of smiles", died eight days after his second birthday.

On December 19, 2020, he was taken to Rochdale Infirmary suffering from shortness of breath and transferred to Royal Oldham Hospital before being discharged, the inquest was told yesterday.

His health continued to deteriorate the next day and his parents took him back to Rochdale Infirmary.

He went into respiratory arrest and then cardiac arrest while being transferred to Oldham, and died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Abdullah, who came from Sudan to live in the UK in 2015 and was joined by his wife Aisha Amin a year later, first reported mould developing in the Tweedale Street flat to RBH in 2017 and was told to paint over it.

In June 2020, he instructed solicitors and initiated a claim over the recurring problem but any repairs could not be done until an agreement had been reached, the inquest was told.

A health visitor also contacted RBH to report concern in July 2020 and an inspection that month found mould in the kitchen, bathroom and a bedroom cupboard needed treatment. No action was taken.

In a statement after the hearing, the boy's family said that they had "shouted out as loudly as [they] could" but were not listened to. "We cannot tell you how many health professionals we've cried in front of and Rochdale Boroughwide Housing staff we have pleaded to, expressing concern for the conditions ourselves and Awaab have been living in," they said.

They accused RBH of not caring and said that they had no doubt they were treated that way "because we are not from this country and less aware of how the systems in the UK work".

They continued: "Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, we have a message for you: stop discriminating. Stop being racist. Stop providing unfair treatment to people coming from abroad who are refugees or asylum seekers. Stop housing people in homes you know are unfit for human habitation.

"We were left feeling absolutely worthless at the hands of RBH."

The inquest was told that Awaab had consistently suffered from cold and respiratory problems throughout his life.

Delivering her conclusion, Joanne Kearsley, the Manchester North senior coroner, said that ventilation in the flat was not effective.

She added: "I'm sure I'm not alone in having thought: how does this happen? How, in the UK in 2020, does a two-year-old child die from exposure to mould in his home?

"The tragic death of Awaab will and should be a defining moment for the housing sector in terms of increasing knowledge, increasing awareness and a deepening of understanding surrounding the issue of damp and mould."

Swarbrick said that Awaab's death should be a "wake-up call for everyone in housing, social care and health".

He said: "We have and will continue to learn hard lessons from this. We didn't recognise the level of risk to a little boy's health from the mould in the family's home. We allowed a legal disrepair process, widely used in the housing sector, to get in the way of promptly tackling the mould.

"We must make sure this can never happen again."

Behind the story

Flooding, leaky roofs and bad plumbing can all contribute to the growth of black mould, which thrives in damp or humid conditions.

As it grows, mould produces spores that float in the air. Inhaling these can cause an allergic reaction such as sneezing, a runny nose, red eyes and skin rash, or asthma attacks. Symptoms are often mild but can become chronic if someone is exposed over a long period. Babies, children, older people and those with asthma or eczema are particularly at risk.

Bedrooms and bathrooms often suffer worst as they are where condensation can build up.

Black mould can be removed with a bleach spray and prevented by installing vents. Keeping rooms below 50 per cent humidity is recommended and can be achieved by using a dehumidifier.

Years of failure

August 2016 Faisal Abdullah moves into flat on Rochdale's Freehold estate.

October 2017 He complains to Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) of "black dots" of mould in kitchen but is told to paint over it.

October 2018 Reports that the mould has returned.

May 2019 Following the birth of Awaab, the family makes repeated complaints to RBH and asks to move.

June 2020 Abdullah instructs solicitors to initiate a claim over the mould. Daniel McVey, a surveyor at Rochdale Council, who visits the flat, says it is "unfit for human habitation".

July 2020 A health visitor contacts RBH to raise the matter and an inspection that month finds mould in the kitchen, bathroom and a bedroom cupboard.

September 2020 A midwife raises concerns with children's services over the potential impact on Awaab's health.

December 2020 Awaab dies at Oldham hospital.

Albanian gangsters exploit slavery laws

Fiona Hamilton
Crime and Security Editor

Albanian criminals are "blatantly manipulating" modern slavery and trafficking laws to claim they are victims while sending home hundreds of millions of pounds in ill-gotten cash, the National Crime Agency said.

Drug runners, cannabis growers and criminal enforcers are being "coached" to tell police that they have been exploited in an effort to persuade the authorities to offer them support instead of putting them in prison.

The NCA revealed that crime bosses had distributed template letters for recruits outlining false claims of abuse and the legal points to qualify as a trafficking or slavery victim. There was a "whole infrastructure" of professional enablers in the UK who supported the illegal immigration movement and drug trade, from lawyers and accountants to electricians and security guards.

Andrea Wilson, the NCA's deputy director of threat leadership, said the agency was carrying out more than 70 investigations into organised immigration crime, of which a "significant proportion" involved Albanian suspects.

The NCA believes that scores of Albanians were recruited during the summer and travelled to France legitimately before using small boats to reach Britain. Wilson said that a "significant proportion of the Albanians in the UK are likely to have arrived here illegally". She said that many were trying to improve their lives but a significant number disappeared into the drugs trade and criminal marketplace.

Albanians have become the most common nationality to arrive in the UK by crossing the Channel, with 12,000 making the journey so far this year, of whom 10,000 were single adult men. This is compared with 50 in 2020, Home Office officials told MPs last month. Ged McCann, a senior NCA intelligence manager, said that Albanian gangs had forged strong links with Iraqi Kurd gangs running the smuggling route across the channel. They were known in the drug trade as being reliable and disciplined, and "effectively bringing in the labour force for the cannabis groves".

He said that many migrants were directed into cannabis farms, a trade the Albanians had wrested from Vietnamese gangs, adding: "Many individuals that are arrested in cannabis groves arrived in the country a matter of days before on small boats." Some were in "debt bondage" to organised criminals and must pay back the cost of their fare by carrying out drug-running or other crimes. However, Steve Brocklesby, an intelligence manager, warned that there was "blatant manipulation" of the national referral mechanism, which was designed to help victims of trafficking and modern slavery.

Edi Rama, the Albanian prime minister, has accused Britain of using his country as a scapegoat for failed immigration policies, by blaming it for the rise in Channel crossings in what he said was a "calculated attack".

BUDA MENDES, TODD OWYOUNG/NBC/GETTY IMAGES







Springsteen made the admission on Jimmy Fallon's chat show. Left, the young Boss

Springsteen admits 50-year blunder on Thunder Road lyric

Bruce Springsteen has settled a debate about the opening lines of one of his best-known songs (Joshua Thurston writes). *Thunder Road*, from his 1975 album *Born to Run*, opens with a screen door slamming, everyone can agree. But what exactly does Mary's dress do next? Does it "sway," or does it "wave"?

This seemingly small detail has had fans at loggerheads for years, and the debate went viral on social media last year. While the lyrics on the album's sleeve say "The screen door slams, Mary's dress waves…" many are convinced that Springsteen sings "Mary's dress sways", and has done in countless performances since.

"The Boss", now 73, was urged to settle the debate by the American chat-show host Jimmy Fallon while appearing on *The Tonight Show*.

"All right, I knew you were going to ask this question. So I came prepared," Springsteen said, before producing a copy of the original gatefold vinyl LP. "This record is almost 50 years old; 50 years ago, I was a sociopath. I was insane about every single detail that had anything to do with music: my album, my album cover, my lyrics, I went over everything with a fine-tooth comb. So everything would be perfect and completely accurate." Donning a pair of spectacles, he remarked that he has been "singing 'sways' for almost 50 years" before reading aloud the lyrics on the sleeve. "The screen door slams, Mary's dress waves," he recited, adding: "This is wrong! I'm telling you this is wrong!"

It settled an online debate which erupted last year when the New York Times journalist Maggie Haberman quoted the lyrics before a *Springsteen on Broadway* show.

Beauty of a misheard lyric, leading article, page 31

The greatest hits we know by part

The ants are my friends/They're blowin' in the wind (The answer my friend/ Is blowing' in the wind) Bob Dylan, *Blowin' in the Wind*)

There's a bathroom on the right (There's a bad moon on the rise) Creedence Clearwater Revival, *Bad Moon Rising*

Here we are now, in containers (Here we are now, entertain us) Nirvana, *Smells Like Teen Spirit*

The girl with colitis goes by (The girl with kaleidoscope eyes) The Beatles, *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*

Darling, Cheese Head, you're far too greasy / Woah, me ears are alight (Darling, she said, I was yours to be seen. Poor me, the Israelite) Desmond Dekker, *The Israelites*

'Scuse me while I kiss this guy ('Scuse me while I kiss the sky) Jimi Hendrix, *Purple Haze*

Request by Charles 'rushed through'

Valentine Low

A Labour peer has accused the government of rushing through legislation to extend the members of the royal family who can stand in for the King to include the Princess Royal and the Earl of Wessex.

Lord Foulkes of Cumnock was blocked from making an intervention as the House of Lords agreed a response to the King's request to amend the Regency Acts. The change is needed because at present the counsellors of state — royals who can deputise for the King — include the Duke of York and Duke of Sussex.

Foulkes was ignored by the Lord Speaker, Lord McFall of Alcluith, as he tried to speak, and at least one member from the government benches shouted "Sit down."

The so-called humble address was approved by the House without a vote. The Counsellors of State Bill, which received its first reading in the Lords one day after the King requested the change in the law, will be debated in full by peers on Monday. Peers will be allowed "maximum latitude" to give their views on the draft legislation being fast-tracked through parliament, Lord True, the lord privy seal, said.

Speaking outside the chamber, Foulkes said that parliament needed to consider fully the implications of the proposed legislation and "not just bow the knee to the monarch". He said: "I am concerned that the government appear to be pushing this through without allowing proper scrutiny."

The humble address read out at the dispatch box by True thanked the King for his message and assured him that "this House, without delay, proceed to discuss this important matter and will provide such measures as may be necessary or expedient for the purpose set out by His Majesty".

The Earl of Courtown, the deputy chief whip, said the bill's second reading would take place on Monday. All the remaining stages would be dealt with a week today.

Police publish sex assault victims' details by mistake

A police and crime commissioner has offered an "unreserved apology" after the personal details of victims of sexual assault were accidentally published on his force's website.

The information is believed to have included the names, addresses and dates of birth of victims as well as details of assaults they had suffered.

A member of the public who saw the data told the East Anglian Daily Times that hundreds of victims had been identified by Suffolk police.

The force is said to have been told of the "mass data breach" last week and took immediate steps to take the information offline.

Publishing details that could directly or indirectly identify a victim of sexual assault is an offence under the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 1976.

A Suffolk police spokesman said: "This matter was quickly resolved and the information can no longer be accessed. An investigation is now taking place." Tim Passmore, Suffolk's police and crime commissioner, said: "I am extremely sorry and issue an unreserved apology for anyone who might have been affected."

News Politics

Sunak: We can't solve world's big

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor, Bali

Rishi Sunak will ask for China's help on the economy, climate change and Ukraine today in the first meeting between President Xi and a British prime minister for almost five years.

Sunak provoked a backlash from his party, with accusations of appeasement as he softened his language and argued that none of the world's big challenges could be solved without Beijing.

Sunak will also meet President Biden today for the first time since he became prime minister. He said there was "terrific alignment" between Britain and the US on key global issues.

The announcement about the meeting with Xi came as a surprise last night. Sunak will ask for a "frank and constructive relationship" with China. Downing Street insisted that he could balance criticism of China's economic threat and human rights record with appeals to work together on key issues. It said that Britain would have a "complex and nuanced" relationship with China and the prime minister would "encourage China to use its place on the global stage responsibly to resolve geopolitical tensions".

Yesterday Sunak called China a "systemic challenge", in phrasing that was notably less aggressive than language used during his leadership campaign. During the summer, he called China "the biggest long-term threat to Britain", accusing Xi's government of "nefarious activity and ambitions" such as infiltrating universities, stealing western technology, bullying poor countries, rigging the global economy and torturing dissidents.

However, yesterday he repeatedly declined to repeat this. He said: "An indisputable fact of the global economy is that China is a big part of it, and if we want to solve big global challenges like public health, like Russia and Ukraine, fixing the global economy or indeed climate change, it's important to have a dialogue and to engage with China as part of solving those challenges."

Theresa May was the last British prime minister to meet Xi, in a visit to China in early 2018, at a time when Downing Street was still talking about a "golden era" inaugurated by David Cameron and focusing on trading opportunities. Since then relations with China have cooled dramatically, with clashes over repression of the Uighurs and a crackdown in Hong Kong, and concerns about Chinese companies building key western infrastructure.

Sunak reflected the changing tone as he said China was a "very significant threat to our economic security", saying it was "right that we take steps to protect ourselves against that".

Downing Street called China "a country with fundamentally different values to ours, with an authoritarian leadership intent on reshaping the international order". Officials insisted that Sunak would raise human rights in today's meeting, although they did not say whether this would include specific mention of the Uighurs or Hong Kong.

Many in the Conservative Party pushed for a tougher line on Beijing. Sir Iain Duncan Smith said Sunak risked "drifting into appeasement". He added that Sunak must brand China "a strategic threat", warning: "They only understand strength and strength of purpose." Bob Seely, a Tory MP and member of the inter-parliamentary alliance on China, said: "Of course we need to talk to nations, especially those that may challenge our values and stability, but it is dangerous to normalise relations when they are not normal."

However, Alicia Kearns, the chairwoman of the Commons foreign affairs select committee, welcomed Sunak's meeting with Xi. "It is important they meet to prevent miscalculations. We cannot simply cut off China, we must work to create the space for dialogue, challenge and co-operation," she said.

Sunak insisted that his approach to China "is one that is very similar to our allies, whether that's America, Australia [or] Canada".

Xi will be one of six leaders to hold talks with Sunak today. As well as Biden, the prime minister will sit down with Narendra Modi, the prime minister of India, to agree thousands more youth visas and discuss a trade deal, meet Anthony Albanese, Australia's prime minister, Japan's Fumio Kishida and President Widodo of Indonesia. Sunak said there would be "an enormous amount" to talk about with Biden, with the pair likely to discuss a potential deal to supply gas to Britain. "We have a longstanding relationship with the US on energy and we'll continue to have that dialogue," he added.

Counterproductive to class China as a threat, leading article, page 31

Rishi's blue suede shoes

Geraldine Scott

Rishi Sunak stepped out in £450 blue suede shoes for a formal dinner at Garuda Wisnu Kencana Cultural Park yesterday. The prime minister was wearing Gommino driving shoes from the Italian brand Tod's.

During the Tory leadership race he raised eyebrows by wearing a pair of £490 Prada shoes to a building site in Redcar. His allies said it was wrong to criticise him for being successful.

Driving shoes, described in fashion circles as perfect for warmer climes, have rubber pebbles on the sole to help grip car pedals.

Sunak and other leaders also wore traditional Indonesian batik shirts for the dinner. Batik is used for formal events, celebrations and rituals, and is one of the country's cultural art forms. In 2009 Unesco added the handcrafted textile to its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list.

The wearing of matching shirts by international leaders was started by President Bill Clinton in 1993 at the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation summit, and has become a tradition at other world meetings since.

Now Sunak has perhaps started a trend for soft-shoe diplomacy.







Chinese whispers swirl on policy

Analysis

When he meets President Xi today, Rishi Sunak will have to define the parameters of one of Britain's most consequential relationships, striking the balance between confronting China on some issues while pleading for help on others (Chris Smyth writes).

It would be a difficult task for a seasoned diplomat, but Sunak finds himself meeting six world leaders having barely spoken about foreign affairs. During his two years as chancellor, he was focused on domestic economic affairs through the pandemic.

His attendance at the G20 summit in Bali marks the first time that Britain — and the world — will hear him set out his views on foreign policy. On support for Ukraine, there is unsurprisingly no difference from the firm line taken by his two predecessors, and on the world economy, Sunak is on familiar ground.

So it is his meeting with President Xi of China today that provides the most interesting insight about how he sees the world. Downing Street said that Sunak would be "clear-eyed" about Beijing and insisted that he would raise human rights. The prime minister did not rule out sending arms to Taiwan, saying: "We stand ready to support Taiwan as we do in standing up to Chinese aggression."

But Sunak the prime minister is backing away from promises made by Sunak the candidate. In the summer he said: "China is the biggest long-term threat to Britain."

At the G20, Sunak corrected himself after saying China was a "systemic threat", amending it to "systemic challenge". No 10 said he would ask Xi for a "frank and constructive" relationship, with Sunak saying he had to recognise the reality that issues would not be tackled without the help of one of the biggest economies.

This is perturbing China hawks in the party; Sir Iain Duncan Smith called it a "sign of weakness". Sunak finds himself at odds with the right of his party, something likely to become a long-term threat.

Sunak himself seems more concerned with what world leaders think and wants to show that serious government is back. Moving in lockstep with our allies in creating a "complex and nuanced" relationship with Beijing is a demonstration of that.

So too, he might say, is upsetting the right of the Tory party.

Russia blamed for missile strike on Nato ally Poland

Continued from page 1

put some of its forces on high alert and considered triggering Article 4. Biden promised "iron-clad" support for Nato.

The apparent blunder came as Russia fired more than 100 missiles at Ukraine last night in the largest airstrike since the the invasion began on February 24.

World leaders are gathering at the G20 summit in Bali. Before a meeting with President Xi of China today, Sunak criticised Putin for failing to attend the summit and sending his foreign minister instead as he called on the Kremlin to "end this barbaric war".

He said: "It is very simple — countries should not invade their neighbours, they should not attack civilian infrastructure and civilian populations and they should not threaten nuclear escalation."

Details of a possible Russian attack on Poland emerged just before 7pm local time. Firefighters were unable to save two civilians after explosions at a grain silo in Lublin province, according to Polish media.



Although an unnamed US official told AP the missiles were from Russia, Brigadier General Patrick Ryder, the Pentagon spokesman, said: "We don't have any information at this time to corroborate those reports."

They tortured us with electric shocks in Kherson, World, page 32

problems without Beijing's help

LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES



You looking at me? Rishi Sunak stared down Russia's foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov, at the G20 summit as he blamed Russia for making the world's economic problems "much, much worse"

Britain's standing dented by Tory chaos, admits PM

Chris Smyth Bali
Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor

Rishi Sunak has acknowledged that Britain's reputation "took a bit of a knock" over the leadership chaos.

On a day when he confronted Russia face to face for the first time, the prime minister said he wanted to play a leading role in solving global problems.

Sunak glowered at Sergey Lavrov at the opening session of the G20 summit in Bali, where he sat directly opposite the Russian foreign minister.

He used the start of the summit to put pressure on Putin's stand-in, saying that global inflation and economic problems were "made much, much worse by Russia's actions". With other world leaders condemning Lavrov, Sunak said there was still "an enormous amount of goodwill" towards Britain for backing Ukraine and elsewhere.

Sunak, asked if the UK's global image had been tarnished by the Tory leadership chaos, told the BBC: "Obviously, our international reputation took a bit of a knock as a result of some of the things that happened, but what I've seen here at the G20 summit is an enormous amount of goodwill for the UK to be an active and engaged member of the international community."

He said there was "widespread support for what we've done in Ukraine", and singled out Boris Johnson for "incredible leadership that I plan on continuing". Expressing a desire to play a more constructive part in world affairs, Sunak said: "Across the board, whether it's on Cop and climate change, or indeed how to fix the global economy, stand up to aggression everywhere, support vulnerable countries with food — these are issues where we can play a role and people are looking for us to do that."

Asked about Liz Truss's premiership, Sunak admitted that "mistakes were made" on the economy. "What I want to do now is fix them," he said, but declined to apologise for the Tories' handling of the economy. He told Sky News: "I demonstrated over the summer that I'm prepared to be honest with the country about the challenges we face and to make the difficult decisions that are required to fix them."

He did not repeat comments by Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, that "we're all going to be paying a bit more tax" but said the approach in the autumn statement tomorrow would be "fair and compassionate". "The No 1 challenge we face is inflation . . . it's important that we get a grip of that, it's important we limit the increase in mortgage rates that people are experiencing. And the best way to do that is to get a grip of our borrowing levels and have our debt on a sustainable basis falling."

Sunak urged the private sector to restrain workers' pay for fear of fuelling inflation but to "make sure they are also looking after all their workers".

He also said the scale of food bank use was "obviously a tragedy". "I've got enormous admiration and gratitude for the people who are providing them. But I do of course want to get to a position where no one needs to use a food bank."

He declined to comment on whether the triple lock on pensions would stay, even though it was a manifesto commitment in 2019. But he did defend the principle of deviating from the manifesto. He told GB News: "Since that manifesto, we also have had a once-in-a-century pandemic that blew an enormous hole in the public finances. And we've also had a war in Ukraine that has driven inflation globally, up to very high levels, the likes of which we haven't seen in decades. I think most people acknowledge that that's had an impact on us here in the UK."

Putin's drained elites are running out of road, Roger Boyes, page 28

Analysis

The words of Nato's Article 5 are nothing if not stark: "An armed attack against one or more of [the allies] shall be considered an armed attack against them all" (Oliver Moody writes).

Should such an attack occur, every ally will take "such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area".

A Russian missile strike on Polish territory could conceivably meet this threshold. Yet it by no means implies the outbreak of a direct war between Nato and Russia.

Make no mistake: the situation is serious. Last night the Polish and Hungarian prime ministers convened their national security councils. Estonia declared that it stood "ready to defend every inch of Nato territory". Latvia's defence minister also noted that the missiles had landed on the soil of a Nato ally.

Much, however, depends on the details. Were the missiles fired deliberately at Poland as a test of the alliance's resolve? Were they aimed at a Ukrainian military target but led astray by unreliable electronics? Were they fragments knocked off course by Ukrainian anti-missile defences?

Nato leaders will want answers before they decide how to respond. The next step would be to jointly determine whether to invoke Article 5 for only the second time, the first being after the September 11 attacks.

In practice, while the views of Poland and its Baltic allies will carry moral and political force, the US will have the casting vote. If there is no compelling evidence that the strike was intentional, and if there are no further Russian attacks, caution may prevail. Most allies remain reluctant to get sucked into an uncontrollable cycle of military escalation.

Should Nato decide to go down the Article 5 route, though, it would still have options. There is latitude in the phrases "such action as it deems necessary" and "restore and maintain … security".

At a minimum, the alliance could increase its deliveries to Ukraine, supplying the modern battle tanks and fighter aircraft that President Zelensky has been crying out for. Nato could also strengthen the military presence on its eastern frontier with permanent bases, particularly in Poland.

This is a moment of great tension, but of even greater circumspection. No one wants to be the country that recklessly kicks off the Third World War.





An image believed to show the aftermath of the strike that hit Przewodów and, above, Polish defence minister Mariusz Błaszczak

Deal to let more Indian graduates work in Britain

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

Thousands more young Indian professionals will be able to work in the UK from next year, but Rishi Sunak has played down hopes of a trade deal.

As he prepared to meet Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, in Bali today Sunak pointed to his own experience of "the deep cultural and historic ties we have with India" as he pledged to build stronger links with the country.

However, he refused to set a deadline for finalising a trade deal, saying he would not "sacrifice quality or speed", amid tensions within the government over Delhi's demands for an expansion of immigration routes to Britain.

Sunak will finalise a separate exchange deal today which each year will allow 3,000 Indian graduates aged 18 to 30 to work in Britain for two years.

Reciprocal rights will be given to young Britons to work in India in what is described as a once-in-a-lifetime cultural exchange, rather than a route to permanent settlement.

"I know first-hand the incredible value of the deep cultural and historic ties we have with India," Sunak, whose wife is Indian and whose grandparents came from Punjab, said.

"I am pleased that even more of India's brightest young people will now have the opportunity to experience all that life in the UK has to offer — and vice versa — making our economies and societies richer."

Before meeting Modi at the G20 summit in Bali, Sunak said south Asia and the Pacific region was "increasingly crucial for our security and our prosperity". He added that it was "teeming with dynamic and fast-growing economies and the next decade will be defined by what happens in this region".

Talks on a trade deal with India ran into the sand after Indian negotiators tried to use a deadline set by Boris Johnson to force last-minute concessions. The former prime minister had promised a deal by Diwali, October 24, a date that was missed as Suella Braverman, the home secretary, expressed concerns about agreeing to increased Indian immigration as part of an agreement.

She provoked fury in Delhi last month after saying she had "reservations" because more than 20,000 Indians a year overstayed their visa, more than any other group. Talks on the deal were effectively shelved.

Downing Street said the youth visa agreement "makes it easier to return Indian nationals who have no right to be here" because it included "further agreements about returning those who aren't meant to be here". But Sunak's spokesman insisted that it would be wrong to "conflate" the visa agreement with a trade deal.

The prime minister stressed that he was "committed to getting migration down over time" but refused to "put an arbitrary number on it" when asked if that meant a revival of Conservative commitments to bring annual net migration below 100,000.

Sunak has expressed hopes of reviving trade talks, saying "the India trade deal is obviously a fantastic opportunity for the UK" and promising to discuss a potential deal with Modi today.

However, he said: "I wouldn't sacrifice quality for speed; and that goes for all trade deals. It's important that we get them right rather than rush them and so that's the approach I'll take on trade deals."

Asked about the idea of issuing more visas in exchange for cutting tariffs and other trade liberalisations, Sunak said there were "lots of different things that go into trade deals".

He said: "The trade deal is just one part of a broader relationship we have which is incredibly strong and indeed strategic and happens across multiple different aspects of policy. Trade is an important part of it, but it's not the only part and we'll be making progress in all of them."

Sunak offered a lukewarm defence of Britain's trade deal with Australia after criticism from George Eustice, the former environment secretary, who said the government had given away "too much" and called the deal a failure.

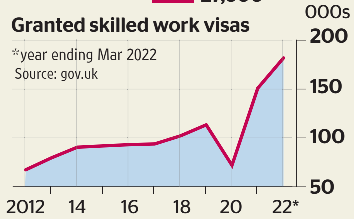
Sunak said it would "make many Australian goods cheaper for British consumers", but suggested it showed the peril of rushing into an agreement. "I want to take the time to get trade deals right," he told the BBC.

Just the job

Top 20 nationalities: granted skilled work visas in the year ending March 2022

1	India	80,421
2	Nigeria	12,862
3	Philippines	10,782
4	US	7,360
5	Zimbabwe	5,549
6	Pakistan	4,847
7	France	3,815
8	S Africa	3,756
9	Egypt	3,099
10	Japan	2,454
11	Italy	2,452
12	Ghana	2,420
13	Germany	2,069
14	China	1,984
15	Spain	1,895
16	Russia	1,816
17	Turkey	1,814
18	Australia	1,812
19	Brazil	1,729
20	Sri Lanka	1,611
	Other	27,606

Granted skilled work visas



*year ending Mar 2022
Source: gov.uk



Standards chief receives dozens of complaints about Hancock

Parliament's ethics watchdog has received "dozens" of complaints about Matt Hancock's appearance on *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!* (Henry Zeffman writes).

Quentin Letts

No whisky for Hunt, he's one of life's raw carrots

Political Sketch

Tomorrow Jeremy Hunt will come to the Commons to clobber everyone with taxes. Yesterday he announced that "despite the difficulty of the package I will sadly not be drinking any whisky as I do so". The rest of us, mind you, may find it harder not to neck directly from a bottle of Famous Grouse.

William Gladstone drained a sherry flip at the dispatch box. Kenneth Clarke was the last chancellor to sink a budget day snifter. Gordon Brown, son of the manse, dropped the habit. Alistair Darling, George Osborne and Philip Hammond all stuck to water, Hammond grasping that his innate skittishness, that Pol Roger personality that so marked him out from the crowd, was excitement enough. Rishi Sunak (spotted in Bali yesterday wearing blue loafers sans socks) resisted drinking Coca-Cola during parliamentary statements. Kwasi Kwarteng, prepared to think the unthinkable, sipped hemlock.

Hunt was answering Treasury questions yesterday. Given the imminence of the autumn statement, it could have been one of those "coming up next" segments on television. Cue screams, dark chords and footage of small-business owners begging in the streets. Hunt confirmed that everyone was going to face a tax rise. "It is going to be a very difficult announcement," he said equably. There was "nothing moral about spending money you do not have". Our debt payments had risen by £22 billion in the past year and that had to be solved.

Some of that debt could perhaps be paid if Hunt heeded Greg Smith (C, Buckingham), who estimated that scrapping HS2 would save £147 billion. "Easy decision," thought Smith. James Cartlidge, one of the new Treasury ministers, would not hear of this. He argued that HS2 was "supporting 29,000 jobs". Such a naked subsidy on borrowings must somehow be moral because Bishop Hunt nodded his approval.

There is indeed something episcopal about this chancellor. He has the lean, remote, clean-livered air of a Common Worship Anglican prelate. He is an unbuttered rusk, a low-fat yoghurt on legs, one of life's raw carrots, with all the superiority that entails. Opposition MPs tried to rile him. Ignoring their barbs, he smiled in a forgiving manner.

Something revolutionary happened when Sir Edward Leigh (C, Gainsborough) spoke up for people who had never claimed benefits. "Remember the good voters of Middle England who've worked all their life for their mortgage and their pension pot and who now fear being dragged into higher-rate tax so the state can get larger and larger and more and more can be spent on those on benefits." Hunt replied that such people wanted Britain to be "a country that pays its way". He's right. That's why they loathe the elite's vanity projects, such as HS2 and foreign aid.

During an opposition day debate the Commons debated whether or not Liz Truss and Kwarteng should each waive £6,000 in severance pay after their "mismanagement of the economy while in office". Helen Hayes (Lab, Dulwich & West Norwood) was distressed not only that Kwarteng's budget had been "ideologically driven" — we all surely yearn for a return to the ideologically free days of G Brown — but also that Matt Hancock (C, West Suffolk) had disappeared to ITV's Australian jungle during Parliament Week. Hancock's constituents had been "left to fend for themselves", wailed Hayes. Pray, please, for the people of Newmarket and Mildenhall, reduced to puddles of confusion without their great helmsman.

When it came to the vote, Labour's motion was accepted without demur. Splendid news. A parliamentary class that for years has insisted "loss of office payments" are a human right has now conceded that they are open to political argy-bargy. Let's get stuck in and scrap such outrageous pay-offs, not only for ministers but also for backbenchers.

ITV/SHUTTERSTOCK





Matt Hancock has been criticised for appearing on I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here! but there are messages of support on his app

Kathryn Stone, the parliamentary commissioner for standards, said that she had received letters from members of the public contrasting Hancock eating a camel's penis, a sheep's vagina and a cow's anus with the "dignity" of Remembrance Sunday. But Stone, who is leaving her position at the end of the year, said that Hancock had not broken any rules by appearing on the show while parliament was sitting. But she added: "It raises really important questions about members' proper activities while they are supposed to be fulfilling their parliamentary duties and representing their constituents.

"There is no job description for members of parliament, but we have to think very carefully about the conflict between public and private interests, about bringing the house into disrepute and so on … it doesn't breach a rule per se unless we're thinking about the conflict between personal and public interests and settling that conflict in the interests of the public."

Yesterday the campaign groups 38 Degrees and Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice flew a banner over the TV show's set in Australia reading: "Covid bereaved say get out of here!"

Rishi Sunak criticised Hancock, who has lost the party whip, for his decision to appear on the show. The prime minister said he had been too busy to watch any of the MP's trials.

Asked whether Hancock was "making a fool of himself" and undermining all politicians, Sunak replied: "I think politics at its best can and should be actually quite noble. I think most people who get into politics, from whatever party, do it because they care about public service.

"They want to make a difference to their communities, they want to make a difference to their country and so when that works well it's a special thing but you have to earn people's respect, it is not given just because you are a politician.

"Though I do think, as you've said, it is incumbent on all MPs to do the things that earn people's respect and that's serving your constituents really well, making a difference to them in surgeries, it is how you conduct yourself.

"Everyone is going to do it in a slightly different way but I think it's important that we have our constituents and our country at the forefront of what we do when we go around our day-to-day lives. We are privileged to have these jobs and we should take that privilege seriously and we should give it the responsibility that is owed."

On the ITV show last night, Hancock was asked by a fellow contestant "what went wrong" with Liz Truss, who resigned as prime minister after 45 days in office.

The former health secretary replied: "In a way, they were unlucky in that globally interest rates all went up, just at the time that they were also bringing in a financial statement where you say, 'We're going to do all these expensive things and we're not going to say how we're going to pay for them.'"

When pushed on where that left Truss now, he said: "Her political career is over. Totally finished. No ambiguity at all."

Raab is just demanding of staff, claim allies

Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor
Oliver Wright Policy Editor

Dominic Raab was simply "demanding" and "tough" with his civil servants, his allies have said as the deputy prime minister prepares to defend himself in parliament today.

Raab will stand in for Rishi Sunak at prime minister's questions this afternoon, when he is expected to face questions from Labour's Angela Rayner about the stream of allegations about his behaviour towards officials.

Questions about Raab's conduct intensified yesterday after the former head of the Foreign Office said that civil servants had been "scared" to go into his office when he was foreign secretary. Lord McDonald of Salford told Times Radio that Raab was "not aware of the impact of his behaviour on the people working for him and couldn't be made to see that impact".

He added that, while officials did not make any formal complaints, there were widespread concerns about his behaviour. "Colleagues did not complain to me formally. It was their professional pride to cope but many were scared to go into his office," he said.

"It was language, it was tone, he would be very curt with people. And he did this in front of a lot of other people. I think people felt demeaned."

Allies of Raab said he was being unfairly criticised for having high standards. One said: "Perhaps some civil servants had been allowed to become lazy under previous ministers and weren't used to Dom wanting results."

Yesterday Sunak repeatedly failed to deny that he was aware of complaints about Raab's behaviour before he appointed him deputy prime minister.

Speaking in Bali, where he is attending the G20 summit, Sunak told the BBC he had not been informed of any "formal" allegations against the justice secretary. "I don't recognise the characterisation of Dominic's behaviour and I was not aware, and am not aware, of any formal complaints," he said.

A spokesman for Raab said: "Dominic has acted with professionalism and integrity in all of his government roles. He holds everyone, and most of all himself, to the high standards that people would expect of their government."

Backlash looms over planned council tax rises

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Rishi Sunak is facing a backlash from Tory MPs over plans to allow local authorities to increase council tax by 5 per cent without the need for a referendum.

At present local authorities cannot raise general council tax by more than 2 per cent without holding a local referendum. They can increase it by an additional 1 per cent to fund social care.

Tomorrow the government will announce plans to give councils greater flexibility in the autumn statement, allowing them to raise council tax by 5 per cent without the need for a referendum. Households in Band D face paying £100 extra under the plans, taking annual bills above £2,000. Those in the top band, Band H, could pay as much as £200 more, with bills hitting £4,000.

The government will argue that the move is in line with the Conservative Party's manifesto because the increases are not "excessive" given that inflation is running at more than 10 per cent.

However, Tory MPs warned yesterday that the move would damage the party's chances in next May's local elections. They said that it would hit poorer voters struggling to cope with the cost of living.

Bob Blackman, the Conservative MP for Harrow East, said: "In my view, council tax should be set at a local level. However, by easing or taking away the referendum lock, the political risk is that Conservative-run councils will get blamed for increasing council tax. It could make the local elections even more challenging next year."

Jonathan Gullis, the MP for Stoke-on-Trent North, said: "It is a very blunt mechanism. Most importantly and worst of all, those who are most vulnerable in bands A to D will be hit in the pocket even harder. Hitting people on low incomes even harder at the time of a cost of living crisis will undermine trust, particularly in public services where people will question whether they're getting value for money."

In the Commons Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, suggested that the government would be relaxing the restrictions on raising council tax. The autumn statement tomorrow was going to be a "very difficult announcement" because everyone would be asked to contribute more. "But we'll be asking people who have more to contribute even more," Hunt said. "And that will be reflected in our decisions on council tax and every other tax as well."



Jeremy Hunt said that tomorrow's autumn statement would be "difficult"

He said that the UK had spent £22 billion more on debt interest in the year to date than last year, more than the entire Home Office budget. Hunt also quoted Margaret Thatcher's saying that "there is nothing moral about spending money you do not have".

Sir Edward Leigh, the Tory MP for Gainsborough, urged the chancellor to "remember the good voters of Middle England" as he warned against a "larger and larger" state.

He said: "As the chancellor prepares for his autumn statement, will he remember the good voters of Middle England, people who've rarely if ever been on benefit, who've worked all their life for their mortgage and for their pension pot and they fear that more and more of them are going to be dragged into higher rate tax."

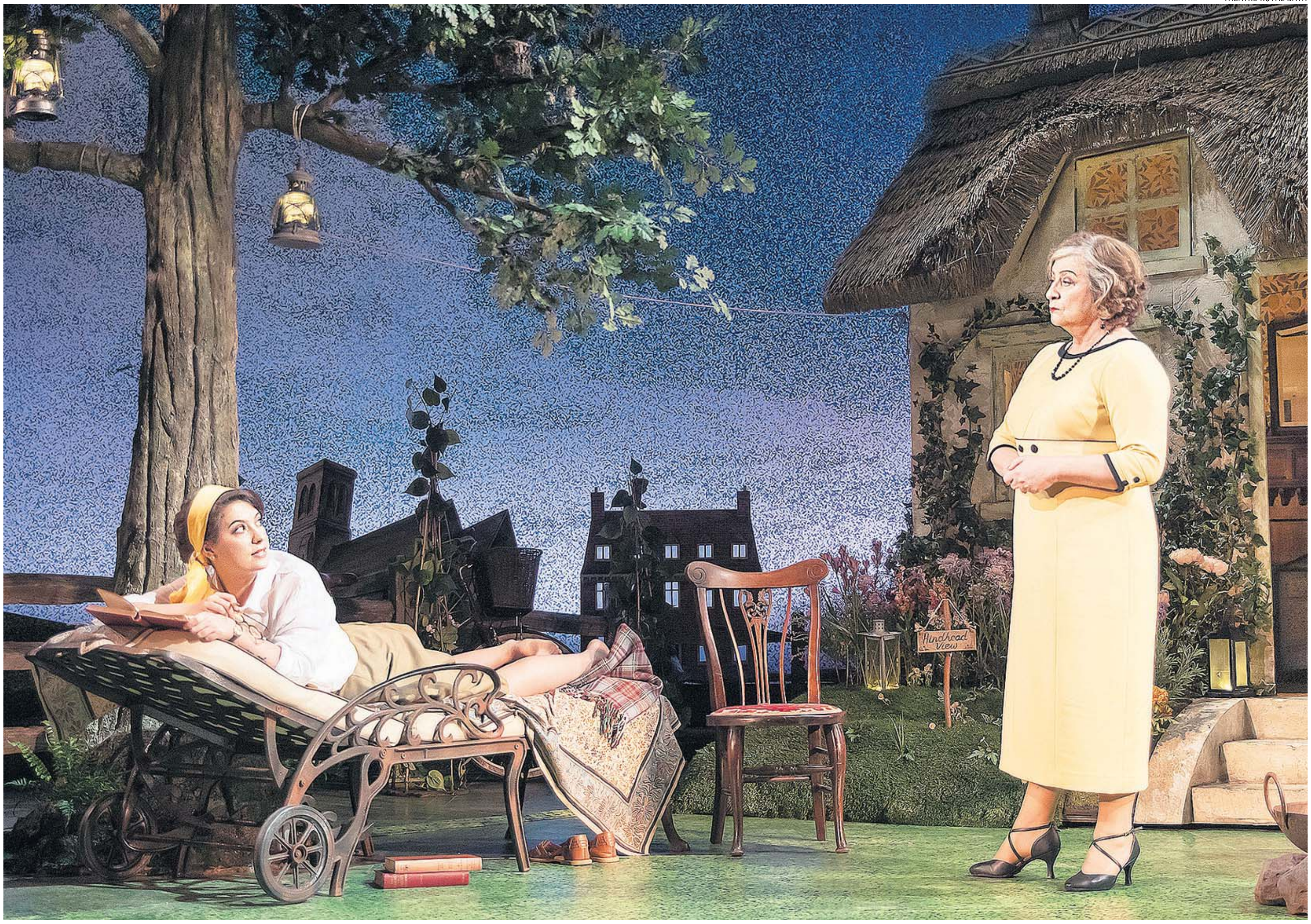
Hunt replied: "Absolutely and I would just say to [him] that it is the good voters of Middle England who want us to be a country that pays its way, that doesn't borrow at the expense of future generations and that can be trusted when it comes to sound money and that's what we'll deliver."

Sunak yesterday said that inflation was the "enemy we have to face down" when asked about new figures showing Britain's rate of unemployment edging higher.

The prime minister, who is in Bali attending the G20 summit, told *ITV News* that inflation was "what's making people poorer, that's what's driving up the cost of living and everyone's bills that they're opening every week, every month". He emphasised that inflation was a global challenge, adding: "That's very much the conversation we're having here at the G20."

Hunt means this to hurt and he's right, Daniel Finkelstein, page 27

THEATRE ROYAL BATH



Family way Caroline Quentin is starring opposite her daughter Rose in a new adaptation of George Bernard Shaw's Mrs Warren's Profession, at the Theatre Royal Bath

'Humanity at risk' as sperm counts plunge

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

A steep global decline in sperm counts could threaten the future of humanity, scientists warned yesterday as a new study suggested that the falls seen in recent decades were accelerating.

The research, which drew on data from 53 countries on six continents, showed that average sperm concentrations fell from an estimated 101.2 million per ml in 1973 to 49 million in 2018, — more than 50 per cent — and total sperm counts fell by 62 per cent.

The researchers had reported a similar decline in concentrations in 2017, focusing on Europe, North America and Australia. An update published yesterday was more comprehensive, adding data from 14,233 samples taken in South America, Asia and Africa.

"Our findings serve as a canary in a coal mine," said Professor Hagai Levine of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, one of the authors of the study, published in *Human Reproduction Update*.

"We have a serious problem on our hands that, if not mitigated, could threaten mankind's survival."

Dr Sarah Martins da Silva, reader in reproductive medicine at the University of Dundee, who was not involved in the study, said: "Exposure to pollution, plastics, smoking, drugs and prescribed medication, as well as lifestyle, such as obesity and poor diet, have all been suggested to be contributory factors although effects are poorly understood."

Painful day in the life of an A&E nurse

Broken sleep, no beds, patients on trolleys, ambulance queues and critically ill patients are all part of the job

I arrive at 7am, groggy and tired after a broken night's sleep worrying about the day ahead.

Walking towards the department I can see numerous ambulances outside — some likely to have been there for hours, with patients on board, unable to offload into a department stretched to beyond 300 per cent of its capacity.

I walk through the waiting room, people wrapped in blankets, zombified with exhaustion; some could probably have used other pathways if these were accessible, suitably funded or indeed existed at all.

Some however, are desperately ill and should be on trolleys and wards receiving urgent treatment but there just isn't space. Would I want my family member treated like this? No. I feel I have failed before I've even had chance to get my scrubs on.

We have a team briefing and receive our allocations for the shift and I head for the resuscitation (resus) room. It's well known among those of us with a passion for emergency medicine that while we don't wish for people to become critically ill or injured, we do want to be there when it happens. To help, to do something we're good at and passionate about, to make a difference. Maybe today will be OK after all.

The resuscitation room is full. A frail lady with dementia no longer needs to be in the area, but there is nowhere else to move her to. The bright lights and constant sounds are making her distressed. We move her to a more comfortable bed and earmark her as the first to "step out" if and when space becomes available.

Having no empty space in the resuscitation room makes us feel twitchy — the red phone could go at any point, informing us of the imminent arrival of a critically ill or injured patient.

It doesn't take long. There's been a serious crash and a motorcyclist with severe chest injuries will be with us in seven minutes. We kick into action. We move our frail lady into a corridor. Not appropriate for her needs but the only available option while the nurse in charge tries to move other patients around to create a cubicle. It's like a game of Tetris that you're constantly on the edge of losing.

The motorcyclist arrives, screaming in pain. Within minutes we have assessed, connected to monitors, taken bloods, placed another cannula and given additional pain relief before heading to the CT scanner for a scan from head to pelvis. While he is stable, it is clear to even my untrained eye that something is not right on the scan. His rib cage is broken in multiple places and there is blood and air where it shouldn't be in his chest. This will need to be drained urgently. We return to resus and prepare for the procedure.

On returning to resus, an ambulance crew are at the doors with a patient with a life-threatening heart problem. They had rung ahead but there hasn't been enough time, staff or space to create a bed for them. The patient sits in the middle of resus attached to the ambulance monitoring and defibrillator while we desperately think of a plan.

The only option? The next most stable patient is stepped into a corridor too. Visible, but no longer on monitoring and the nurses allocated to care for these patients are stretched thinner by the second.

The day continues like this for 12.5 hours, shuffling patients around to try and provide the safest care we can. We didn't train to just be safe though, we trained to be excellent, to be compassionate, to care.

I work through my half-hour unpaid break because the patients are too sick to be left with just one nurse. I can't remember the last shift where everyone was able to eat and drink and have a break, yet that half an hour is still docked from our pay. I get changed before plodding back through the waiting room, trying not to catch anyone's eye on the way out.

I walk away from the ever-growing queue of ambulances and head home for another night of broken sleep. Will today be the day I made an error and lost my registration? Did the fact we can't offload ambulances mean someone died today? Did my patient get a pressure sore because there aren't enough staff to provide the care we used to?

Emergency department staff often joke about our elastic walls. We never turn people away, we are never closed but where is the limit? Our department is full of patients who should be on hospital wards, but there just aren't enough beds, meaning we can often no longer properly care for patients presenting with an accident or emergency.

The walls may be elastic but the staff are broken and leaving in droves, many leaving healthcare altogether for better paid, less stressful jobs. We are caring, compassionate individuals who thrive under pressure but there's only so far an elastic band can stretch before it snaps.

Anonymous registered nurse working in the Midlands

More 999 staff promised to weather winter storm

Eleanor Hayward
Health Correspondent

More 999 staff will be recruited to provide emergency care as the NHS faces a "winter storm", the health secretary is expected to say today.

Steve Barclay will announce the government's strategy for tackling record waits in A&Es, which analysts say are costing lives and are likely to deteriorate when nurses stage the first national strike this winter.

But there is unlikely to be any big injecton of cash after Barclay told Treasury officials the health service's problems would not be fixed by extra funds.

Instead he wants the NHS to be more efficient and focus its efforts on five key problem areas, including hiring more 999 staff and speeding up the discharge of hospital patients.

He will tell the NHS Providers conference in Liverpool: "We face the twin threats of Covid and flu, external pressures around energy and cost of living, and we enter the colder months without the breathing space that we might have usually had due to Covid pressures over the summer. So there is a huge amount to do to steer health and care through this storm and crucially, make the changes that will better prepare us for the storms to come."

Barclay will also set out how he plans to deliver the Conservatives' pledge to build 40 hospitals by 2030, as well as improving access to GP appointments.

Many NHS leaders say the most pressing concern is the collapsing social care sector, which is blocking hospital beds. In September the government announced a £500 million emergency social care discharge fund to get patients out of hospital, but local services and hospitals say they have not received a penny of this.

A lack of social care capacity means 13,600 hospital beds in England — one in ten — are taken up by patients who have no medical need to be there. This means there are no beds available to send patients to wards from A&E, leading to the worst-ever waiting times as nearly 20,000 patients a day wait beyond the four-hour target to be seen.

Labour said yesterday the chaos in A&Es was also being fuelled by difficulties getting a GP appointment. Wes Streeting, the shadow health secretary, told the NHS Providers conference: "It's not only because of problems in social care that we see patients in hospital who needn't be there. Patients who can't get a GP appointment are ending up in A&E. Others are reaching crisis point because they are made to wait years for mental health support."

He also urged hospital chiefs to use their funds to pay for care home places, with more than 13,000 beds taken up by elderly patients who cannot be discharged because of a lack of social care.

Saffron Cordery, the interim chief executive of NHS Providers, told the conference she was pleading with politicians to "inject some long termism into your thinking" and not take money from areas such as equipment and building maintenance.

Kate Moss stalker stabbed his parents

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A schizophrenic Kate Moss stalker walked out of a psychiatric hospital and stabbed his parents to death in their Cotswolds homes, a court was told.

William Warrington, 42, received a restraining order in 2019 after leaving a Second World War helmet, a bottle of champagne and a "threatening" note at the supermodel's country home.

Three years later, the cannabis addict left a psychiatric unit and killed his parents, who lived 15 miles apart.

Bristol Crown Court was told that Wotton Lawn mental health hospital, in Gloucester, had reported Warrington missing to police, but "made no effort" to warn his family. Hours later he stabbed his parents to death in "brutal and grotesque" attacks. Warrington's siblings, Edward and Rosanna, said their parents' deaths had been "preventable" and that they had "lost all confidence in the government agencies responsible for managing and responding to mental health crises and domestic abuse".

Warrington had lived with his mother but was told to leave in 2021 after his cannabis addiction and worsening psychosis led to years of "extremely aggressive" physical and verbal abuse against his parents.

He was admitted to a psychiatric hospital in 2017, suffered "delusions" in 2018 that Moss and Vladimir Putin were sending him messages, and assaulted his mother in December 2020. She moved him into a flat she owned in 2021, but on February 17 this





Warrington had left a helmet and champagne at the home of Kate Moss

year he was arrested for attacking his housemate with a knife. He was sectioned and detained at Wotton Lawn hospital.

His family sent 11 emails raising concerns for their safety. Warrington's mother, Valerie, 73, sent a message to the hospital on March 1, the day before her killing, saying: "I am afraid for the safety of myself, my children and any others he comes into contact with."

On the same day, Warrington was granted unescorted leave to walk to the courtyard. He walked through the front door and at 9.45pm got into a taxi he had booked. It was not until midnight that he was reported missing to police.

Warrington went to his mother's home in Bourton-on-the-Water. He broke in and stabbed and beat her to death. In the early hours of March 2, he took his mother's car, drove over her body and travelled to Cheltenham where his father Clive, 68, lived.

He "shoulder barged" his way into the flat. A couple who lived above heard Clive Warrington scream and a voice say: "I'm really going to enjoy this." After his arrest, Warrington told psychiatrists that he believed he was a "double agent" ordered to "carry out a hit" on his parents.

Yesterday he pleaded guilty to manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Raymond Tully KC, in mitigation, said there had been "the most serious breakdown in the treatment regime". Mrs Justice Eady said Warrington "clearly poses a grave risk to others" and sentenced him to be detained indefinitely at Broadmoor high security psychiatric hospital. She granted a restraining order preventing him from contacting his family.

The court was told that the circumstances leading to the killings would be investigated in a multi-agency inquiry.

ALAMY





Oliver Pocher's stunt to raise donations for Boris Becker, who has appeared on game shows with his then wife Lilly

Jailed Becker tries to stop prank video



Boris Becker has sought an injunction to prevent a German comedian from screening video of a "humiliating" prank in which the retired tennis star accepted a fake trophy full of banknotes (Rob Hyde writes).

Becker, 54, is serving a prison sentence in Oxfordshire but yesterday sent a lawyer to tell a German court that the "outrageous" stunt was an attempt to pursue a long-running personal feud under the guise of satire.

Becker and Oliver Pocher, 44, an entertainer who has frequently made fun of the former Wimbledon champion in his television shows, have been at odds for more than a decade.

In April, Becker, a bankrupt, was sentenced to two and a half years for concealing some assets from his creditors. Pocher tried to rub salt in the wound by raising €541.11 in donations for Becker with the slogan "Make Boris rich again". After Becker refused to accept the money, he invited him to a supposed fashion award ceremony and smuggled the cash into the prize.

Becker's lawyer said Pocher was trying to belittle his client. Pocher's lawyer insists the comedian has not done anything wrong.

Cymru am byth, say football saviours

Peter Chappell

Ryan Reynolds, the Hollywood actor, hailed Wales in Welsh as he was given an award in New York for championing Wrexham football club.

Reynolds, 46, and fellow actor Rob McElhenney, 45, were given the Dragon Award from the Welsh government for rescuing the troubled team. It was presented at a concert in Times Square before Wales take on the USA in the World Cup on Monday.

The Wales and the World event, organised by the broadcaster S4C, the Welsh government and the Football Association of Wales, was also attended by the actor Ioan Gruffudd and classical singers Bryn Terfel and Katherine Jenkins. McElhenney said: "We accept this [award] with the full recognition that these last few years have been the real honour." Reynolds added: "We are so humbled by the fact that the people of Wrexham and the nation of Wales have entrusted us to tell your story."

McElhenney asked: "Do you want to try some Welsh, Ryan?" Reynolds responded: "How about this? *Cymru am byth*!" The phrase translates as "Wales for ever".



Actors Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds bailed out Wrexham AFC

Reynolds and McElhenney completed their £2 million takeover of Wrexham AFC, the world's third-oldest professional football club, in February 2021. Their journey has been documented in a television series, *Welcome to Wrexham*.

They have been praised locally for their efforts to engage with the community and respect the traditions of the club, whose merchandise sales have gone from £59,000 a year to £360,000 in the past 12 months. Reynolds wore a Wrexham hat in the trailer for his latest *Deadpool* film.

Noel Mooney, chief executive of the Football Association of Wales, said: "We are absolutely delighted to see Rob and Ryan recognised for their role in these special times for football in Cymru."

Police yet to find gunman who shot rapper 8 times

Fariha Karim

A gunman who shot a drill rapper eight times after a car chase that left a Deliveroo worker dead is still being sought by police, an inquest has heard.

Lemar Rashawan Urquhart, 27, who performed as Perm, was driving a white MG which was being chased by a grey Alfa Romeo through Brixton, south London, at 7.30pm on October 30.

As the cars entered Railton Road, the MG struck Guilherme Messias da Silva, 23, a Deliveroo worker on a moped who was making his last delivery of the day.

Da Silva, a Brazilian who did not know the cars' passengers or drivers, died of multiple injuries, inner south London coroner's court was told. Urquhart, son of the boxing promoter Dean Whyte, and his passenger fled the MG. A passenger in the Alfa Romeo shot him eight times, Detective Inspector Jason Fitzpatrick said.

The passenger with Urquhart has been arrested on suspicion of the manslaughter of da Silva, but the man who shot the rapper is still being sought.

Fitzpatrick told the coroner, Julian Morris: "Identifying the suspects involved is proving difficult at the moment … we believe the chase involved rival gang members." The officer has spoken to da Silva's mother in Brazil and his family is "very keen to have the body repatriated as soon as possible".

The coroner will release the bodies on November 28 so that da Silva can be repatriated and funerals arranged.

The inquest was adjourned.

SIMON DELL/MERCURY PRESS



Pied-à-terre A mouse takes its first step on to the housing ladder in photographer Simon Bell's garden in Sheffield



For full details, visit specsavers.co.uk/HomeVisits

Phone companies ordered to block fraudsters' calls

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Fraudsters who pretend to be phoning from a trusted number to trick victims into parting with money are to be blocked.

"Number spoofing", where technology is used to display falsely that an incoming call is from a bank, company, government department or local number, is a growing problem.

About 700,000 people are estimated to have fallen victim to the scam in the three months to August, Ofcom said. If a call to a mobile or landline phone appears trustworthy, people are more likely to answer it and follow the scammers' requests, research has shown.

The regulator is now forcing telephone networks to identify and block spoof calls. When they did this voluntarily, it had a big impact. TalkTalk said it had noted a 65 per cent reduction in complaints about scam calls since it blocked calls from overseas if they pretended to be from the UK.

Britain is particularly vulnerable to number spoofing, the Lords' digital fraud committee said in a report this week.

One of the problems is that banks and utility companies ask customers to divulge confidential information to identify themselves. Peers want companies to stop this practice.

Spoofing technology is readily available, the Lords report said. DCI Stevie Trim, of Police Scotland, told the committee: "There are spoofing apps that people can download. They were originally used to play jokes: I could put in a phone number and pretend to my mum that I was from a particular organisation."

Despite Ofcom's crackdown, action to tackle number spoofing is being made harder because more calls are being made over the internet or by using chat apps such as WhatsApp, where it is easier to modify the caller number.

Meta, which owns the service, has recognised that it has a limited ability to stop spoofing.

Telecom companies will also be required by Ofcom to block calls coming from a "do not originate" list, numbers that banks and government departments never use for outbound calls.

Rocio Concha, the director of policy and advocacy at the consumer group Which?, said: "It's encouraging to see the regulator crack down on this type of fraud, especially by ensuring telecoms firms are blocking numbers on Ofcom's 'do not originate' list.

"However, given the sheer volume of spoofing attempts, it is also important that other tech and telecoms businesses improve their efforts to protect consumers, ensuring that malicious calls are prevented from getting through in the first place."

Fraud accounted for 41 per cent of crime in England and Wales in the year ending last June, with bank and credit card scams the most common — but the number of frauds resulting in a charge or summons fell from 6,402 in 2017 to 4,816 this year.

The government does not know the full scale of the fraud threat to individuals and businesses and is not yet leading an effective cross-government strategy to tackle it, according to a report from the National Audit Office this week.

Lindsey Fussell, the Ofcom group director for networks and communications, said: "We're constantly working with phone companies and other organisations on new ways to combat these scams. Blocking fake numbers can have a significant impact, so we're making sure all phone companies apply this protection for their customers."

A far tougher approach to fraud is needed, leading article, page 31

Lab could let more animal diseases spread to humans

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

The government has "comprehensively failed" to keep Britain's most important laboratory dealing with animal diseases in a decent state of repair, a report by MPs has warned.

It found that the poor condition of the Animal and Plant Health Agency's main research facility in Weybridge, Surrey, has left the UK population vulnerable to viruses and other pathogens that could leap from animals to humans — the path taken by Covid-19, which originated in bats.

The House of Commons public accounts committee said there were more than 1,000 potential points of failure at the Weybridge site, which is overseen by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

"Inadequate management and under-investment" has left the site "continually vulnerable to a major breakdown" which would impact its ability to respond to an outbreak, the report said. The site is due for upgrades, but these will take years.

Scientific experts said the findings were alarming as the UK faces the most serious bird flu epidemic on record. The virus currently poses little harm to humans, but a mutation could make it far more dangerous. The Animal and Plant Health Agency is supposed to be at the forefront of the response.

Dame Meg Hillier, the Labour MP who chairs the Commons committee, said: "After the 2001 disaster of foot and mouth disease, the past decades have brought one animal-sourced disease after another. It is shocking that the government has allowed UK capacity in this area to deteriorate so alarmingly over that same period."

Professor James Wood, head of the department of veterinary medicine at University of Cambridge, who was not involved with the research, said: "The steady decline of the facilities at Weybridge has been evident to those working in them over many years."

A Defra official said: "Significant funding and work is already under way to upgrade its laboratories and ensure we are protected from … diseases into the future.

"Its world-leading scientists and our field teams are playing a vital role in responding rapidly and decisively to the threats from animal diseases, including the current avian influenza outbreak."

Meghan: I was urged to keep fighting

Valentine Low

The Duchess of Sussex is not a woman who has looked in danger of retreating into a submissive silence. But she has revealed that just before she married Prince Harry a "very influential" woman begged her not to give up her activism.

The duchess said in the latest episode of her Spotify podcast, *Archetypes*, that the plea made her determined to keep fighting for women's rights.

She was speaking after the Iranian-American actress Shohreh Aghdashloo shared a message in Farsi for the women in Iran protesting against the regime after the death in police custody of Mahsa Amini. The duchess said: "It reminded me of a message that was shared with me just a few days before my wedding by a very influential and inspiring woman — who, for her own privacy, I won't share who it was with you, but she said to me, 'I know that your life is changing but please don't give up your activism. Don't give up, because it means so much to women and girls.' And I kept doing the work for women and girls because it matters. Yes. But also because she encouraged me to do so."

In the episode, entitled *The Audacity of the Activist*, the duchess offered her thoughts on the term "woke", saying that like "feminism" it was a word that had become "unnecessarily charged". She said: "I know … I'm saying woke. I fully realised that I am spoon-feeding the clickbait. But here is why, because woke by definition means alert to injustice in society, especially racism. Now what's loaded or wrong with that? And when you layer a woman into that seemingly anodyne definition, it becomes for many almost disgusting. Outrageous, they would say.



The duchess titled the episode The Audacity of the Activist

But why? What is so scary about a woman having an opinion as strongly as a man does?"

The British actress and activist Jameela Jamil, who has been critical of the media and the fashion industry for promoting unhealthy body images, was a guest on the podcast and said that the public criticism she had suffered had been so bad it made her feel suicidal.

"I've been through quite a lot of smear campaigns in the past and when it got too much one time … I felt so exhausted and kind of like everything just felt very hopeless and pointless. And I saw such an ugly side of society that it made me kind of want to tap out. And so I felt very, very, very suicidal a few years ago because of it." She thanked Meghan for reaching out to her when she was at her lowest ebb. "During some of my hardest moments where I'm being the most maligned and harmed by the media and sometimes also by the public, you have been such a sobering voice of unwavering support to me," Jamil said.

"And people don't know that you frequently reach out to women who are having a very, very hard time privately. You reach out to us. You don't do it publicly. You don't come to get any glory. But you privately reach out to us in our most lonely and desperate moments. And we need more of that in the world."

How Meghan broke my heart with three words, Times 2

KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/GETTY IMAGES

Beyoncé and Adele will tussle for top prizes at Grammys

Beyoncé and Adele will compete for the top prizes in the American music industry next year after both received a host of nominations for the Grammy Awards yesterday (Will Pavia writes).

Nine nominations for Beyoncé and seven for Adele set up what was seen as a reprise of the 2017 awards when the British singer went home with five awards and tearfully suggested her rival should have won album of the year.

Yesterday Beyoncé was nominated again for album of the year, for *Renaissance*, and Adele for *30*. Both were also nominated for record of the year and song of the year.

Harvey Mason Jr, chief executive of the Recording Academy, told the Los Angeles Times it set up a "heavyweight battle" between two "once in a lifetime voices".

Beyoncé has drawn level with her husband Jay-Z for the most nominations ever received, with 88 each.

Jay-Z received five nominations, including one for his work on *Renaissance*.

The rapper Kendrick Lamar received eight nominations, ahead of Adele and Brandi Carlile with seven, and Harry Styles, who received six.

Adele was absent from last year's awards, as her album, *30*, and a single from it, *Easy On Me*, were both released two weeks after the deadline for eligibility on October 30. She described the album as a form of therapy after her divorce from Simon Konecki, the father of her son, Angelo.

"I like to go to a studio because it's normally a basement, and there's no f*ing windows and no reception, so no one can get hold of me," she told the radio presenter Zane Lowe.**

"So I'm basically running away. And no one would've known I'd written that record … And it's like maybe I just had to get it out of my system."







Adele with her Grammys in 2017. Beyoncé and Harry Styles are nominated

Suffragette colours offend Holyrood

Kieran Andrews Scottish Political Editor

The Scottish parliament's presiding officer has apologised after women were removed from a debate on gender reforms for wearing scarves associated with the suffragette movement.

Alison Johnstone reprimanded security staff after they ordered critics of the Gender Recognition Reform Bill to leave a committee session for wearing purple, white and green tartan scarves. The colours were adopted by feminists to signal opposition to laws making it easier for transgender people to live in their chosen identity.

Displaying "any banners or slogans, including on clothing" is banned under Holyrood rules. The scarves contained no branding, and it is common for MSPs and parliamentary staff to wear lanyards in support of LGBTQ rights.

"Let me make one thing crystal clear, suffrage colours are not, and never have been, banned at the Scottish parliament," Johnstone told MSPs. "The action taken was an error, and I would like to apologise on behalf of the parliament. The wearing of a scarf in those colours does not, in itself, breach the visitor code of conduct."

One woman said that she was asked to remove her scarf as evidence was being heard but refused. She spoke to a security official, who said a manager had seen the scarves on TV coverage of the equalities committee hearing and "decided they were political and should not be displayed".

The committee was considering amendments to the bill, which aims to make it easier for trans people in Scotland to switch gender by allowing self-identification and lowering the age limit from 18 to 16.

Lucy Hunter Blackburn said that women who left the committee room during a 15-minute break were told that they would not be readmitted if they were wearing the scarves.

Joanna Cherry KC, an SNP MP, tweeted that a legal claim of discrimination on the grounds of belief could be taken against Holyrood authorities.

Holocaust denier arrested after two years on the run

Poppy Koronka

A notorious French Holocaust denier has been arrested in a Scottish village after being on the run for two years.

Vincent Reynouard fled France after his conviction under anti-Nazi laws in 2020. Police Scotland said that he was arrested under a Trade and Cooperation Agreement issued in France.

Reynouard was sentenced to two years in prison in 2015 for denying the Holocaust in Facebook posts. His most recent conviction was in 2020 for a Holocaust denial YouTube video. He received a four-month jail term in 2020 and six months in January last year.

His record of denying the Holocaust started in 1997, when he was dismissed from his teaching position at a school after revisionist texts were found on his hard drive. In 2005 he was fined €10,000 and given a year's sentence for his brochure "Holocaust? Here's what's kept hidden from you…" which he sent to tourism offices and museums.

Police Scotland said that Reynouard appeared at Edinburgh sheriff court on Thursday after his arrest in the Anstruther area of Fife.

We can't just turn off gas, says energy boss

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

The head of one of Britain's biggest energy firms has defended the country's continued use of gas, describing it as an important transition fuel as the government seeks to decarbonise electricity supply within 13 years.

"We will still need gas over the next decade," Alistair Phillips-Davies, chief executive of SSE, said after meeting delegates at the Cop27 climate conference in Egypt. "Just … saying 'I don't want to go near gas', telling the public at large that we're going to have mass blackouts, and that they're going to be too cold during the winter or too hot during the summer — I don't think that's a sustainable way to go forward with the public."

SSE has recently built what is likely to be the UK's last large gas power station, due to open in north Lincolnshire in December, and wants to develop UK gas power stations with carbon capture. It is also a big player in the offshore wind energy market.

Speaking from Sharm el-Sheikh, where countries are considering broadening a "phase down" of coal to encompass gas and oil, Phillips-Davies said that flexible sources of energy were needed as well as renewables. "Gas is a perfectly reasonable fuel," he said. "A key thing for me: are people investing enough? And [is] the bulk of what they're investing going forward in the energy transition?"

The role of fossil fuel companies at the climate conference in Egypt came to the fore last week when campaigners identified 636 delegates they characterised as "fossil fuel lobbyists", up a quarter on Cop26 in Glasgow.

Global Witness, which compiled the analysis, said three of those were from SSE, not including Phillips-Davies, who attended the conference's "blue zone" and "innovation zone".

He rejected the idea that his staff at the conference were gas lobbyists. "No, we're clearly not," he told The Times. He said his message to delegates at Cop27 was that "the UK is a great place to do business" and he hoped to advance projects involving hydrogen and pumping water uphill to provide energy storage.

Alice Harrison, of the campaign group Global Witness, said: "Gas companies will of course continue to try to dress gas up as a clean energy source, but increasingly people are wising up to the spin. The energy transition the world needs isn't from one fossil fuel to another, it must be away from fossil fuels altogether."

Phillips-Davies also warned against any unintended consequences of Rishi Sunak extending an energy windfall tax to electricity generators, as The Times reported last week. He said he expected a measured response from Sunak, but failure to do that could put the investments needed to reach the country's net zero targets at risk.

DANNY LAWSON/PA



Dial M for Mummy Amanda Stoner's image of Tutankhamun is part of Barnsley Museum's plan for art in unusual places. It stopped Lesley Sutcliffe in her tracks

Bird flu hits free-range turkey supply

Keith Perry

Christmas dinner could be beef or pork this Christmas as bird flu has left high-end butchers struggling to source hand-reared and organic turkeys.

Avian flu hit free-range flocks particularly severely before the government ordered last week that all poultry be kept indoors.

The Ginger Pig, a butcher in London, told customers yesterday it was "looking to a Christmas with alternatives for turkey, duck, goose and 100-day chickens" after its Lincolnshire supplier, WE Botterill & Son, lost its entire flock of 18,000 birds.

Chris Godfrey of Godfreys butchers in Highbury, north London, said he could offer only about half the usual number of turkeys, geese, ducks and Christmas chickens. "The situation is actually dire," he said. "The intensive farms are not hit as badly, in the sense that they can have sealed barns."

Farmers had called him in tears, he added, to report the destruction of flocks. "A lot have been hit so badly they won't ever go back into production."

The British Poultry Council has said that 40 per cent of all free-range turkeys have been discarded.

Supermarkets, however, say their supply is relatively secure. Simon Roberts, chief executive of Sainsbury's, said this month: "About a third of our volume comes from frozen and we have ordered more turkeys this year."



Representative Example	Duration of Agreement	Upfront Cost	Monthly Device Payment	Credit Amount	Total Amount Payable	Interest Rate	Representative APR	Device Cash Price	Airtime Plan today to March 2023	Airtime Plan April 2023 – March 2024	Airtime Plan April 2024 – March 2025
iPad 9th Generation 64GB	48 Months	£20	£8.60	£412.50	£432.50	0%	0%	£432.50	£5	£5 + RPI% Announced in Feb 2021 = Price A	Price A + RPI% Announced in Feb 2022

***Each year your Airtime Plan will be increased by the Retail Price Index (RPI) rate of inflation announced in February plus 3.9%. If RPI is negative, we'll only apply the 3.9%. You'll see this increase on your April 2023 bill onwards. See o2.co.uk/prices.** £8.60 Device Plan for 48 months and £5 monthly rolling Airtime Plan. £20 upfront. £384 saving achieved by £8 per month discount on the 64GB Airtime Plan for 48 months. Discount applies until you change tariff, leave or upgrade. Data allowances must be used within the month and cannot be carried over. Subject to availability. Ends 07 December 2022. **O2 Refresh custom plans:** Direct purchases only. Pay the cash price for your device or spread the cost over 3 to 48 months (excludes dongles). The device cost will be the same whatever you choose. Th ere may be an upfront cost. You can pay off your Device Plan at any time and choose to keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade it, or leave. If you are in the first 24 months of your Device Plan and you cancel your Airtime Plan you will have to pay the remainder of your Device Plan in full. After 24 months you can keep your Airtime Plan, upgrade it, or end it without affecting your Device Plan. UK data only. Devices subject to availability. 0% APR. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct Debit. Credit provided by Telefónica UK Ltd, SL1 4DX. Telefónica UK is authorised and regulated by the FCA for consumer credit and insurance. Terms apply, see o2.co.uk/terms

Investigators will try to crack mystery of crab wipeout

An independent panel is being set up to look into what caused the mass dying of crabs and lobsters along the North Sea coast last year, the government said.

Thousands of dead and dying crustaceans washed ashore along parts of the northeast coast of England between October and December.

The sight of such large numbers of carcasses on beaches was distressing to many. Fishing crews warned that the poor catches after the event were "catastrophic" for their livelihoods.

An official investigation into the incident, led by the Environment Department (Defra), said that an algal bloom was the likely cause, and concluded it was unlikely that dredging, chemical or sewage pollution or animal disease had been the cause.

But subsequent research by academics, backed by the fishing industry, suggested the incident could have been caused by the industrial pollutant pyridine, possibly from dredging in the mouth of the River Tees to maintain channels for port traffic. There have been calls for a halt to dredging for the new Teesside freeport pending a full analysis of what happened.

Mark Spencer, the fisheries minister, said in a letter to the environment, food and rural affairs committee, which has been examining the issue, that an independent group would be set up to assess the evidence and consider all explanations, including the possible roles of algal blooms, dredging and pyridine.

Professor Gideon Henderson, chief scientific adviser at Defra, who has not previously been involved, would liaise with Sir Patrick Vallance, the government's chief scientific adviser, to establish the independent group. They will consider the findings of the Defra-led investigation published in May and subsequent analysis from university researchers.

Spencer said: "I recognise fishing communities in the northeast want as thorough an assessment as possible into the crab and lobster deaths last year. Defra's investigation concluded that the most likely cause was an algal bloom, but we have always recognised this is a complex area of science and have remained open to further research."

Henderson said: "The death of a large number of crustaceans last year in northeast England was unusual. The increased sea life mortality has important consequences for local communities and it is important we understand its cause."

Stalker abducted former lover's cockapoo in campaign of hate

Mario Ledwith

A property developer posed as a dog walker to steal his former girlfriend's cockapoo and bombarded her with abusive messages.

Bashar Ayoub, 46, is facing jail after he admitted stalking Hannah Rasekh, 34, over five months, during which time he threatened to "rip her apart".

The couple, who met in Dubai in 2017, broke up this year after Rasekh, an online influencer, claimed that Ayoub had been "emotionally and psychologically abusive towards her".

After subjecting Rasekh to a barrage of abusive messages, the businessman turned up at her home in South Kensington, west London, in July — when she was on holiday in Spain — posing as a dog walker. He told her parents, who were house-sitting, that he was a friend who had offered to walk her cockapoo Ted, who has since featured in Rasekh's social media posts.

Ayoub did not immediately give the dog back but returned to the property several weeks later.

He sent Rasekh a photograph of her car and accused her of lying about being on holiday. Westminster magistrates' court was told that Rasekh's father then called the police.



Bashar Ayoub, 46, is facing up to ten years in prison

Tim Fulford, for the prosecution, said that on one occasion when police officers were inside Rasekh's house, Ayoub called her 85 times. Police warned Ayoub not to contact her, but within hours he started his campaign again by phoning Rasekh 64 times and sending abusive messages.

In one Ayoub said: "Die you thief you thieving whore I pray you die I pray every day you die, you whore."

Rasekh, who was born in the UK and has Palestinian heritage, describes herself as a stylist and founded a boutique based in Amman, Jordan.

Fulford told the court that Ayoub sent a text to Rasekh in which he said: "I'll rip you apart, all of you, your whole family you c***s." He sent 35 emails to Rasekh between January 4 and 5 this year in which he called her a "bitch" and another in which he said: "Your brother's next."

Ayoub, who lives in a £2 million apartment in Belgravia, west London, admitted one charge of stalking with fear of harm and violence between April 4 and September 5. He was given bail on condition that he does not contact Rasekh directly or indirectly and must wear a GPS tag to ensure that he does not go near her home. He is scheduled to return for sentencing at Westminster magistrates' court on December 8.

The charge that Ayoub admitted is a serious form of stalking that involves two or more occasions of causing a victim to fear that violence would be used against them. The offence can also arise if the behaviour had a "substantial adverse effect" on the day-to-day life of the victim.

It carries a maximum sentence of ten years' imprisonment, which takes into account the level of harm caused to the victim, such as changes that they have had to make to their daily routine.



Hannah Rasekh's cockapoo Ted was stolen by a former boyfriend who sent her texts including one that said: "I pray you die"

Police force has plenty of leads as collie hands itself in

George Sandeman

Those handing themselves in at a police station are usually wanted for a crime, but Rosie the border collie was lost and simply wanted to go home.

She had run away from her owner, Steve Harper, during a walk in Southfields Park in Loughborough, Leicestershire on November 4 after she was spooked by a firework.

Half an hour later she found refuge in a nearby police station.

CCTV footage shows her walking through the automatic sliding doors at Loughborough station and taking a quick look round the foyer before making herself at home beside some seats.

Officers went over to greet the new arrival and, using the information on her collar, called the family home to ask whether they had lost a dog.

Harper's wife Julie, 62, did not know Rosie was missing, or that her frantic husband had been searching the park and surrounding areas for her. A short time later, ten-year-old Rosie was reunited with her family.

Harper, 68, a retired research biochemist, said: "She's very frightened of fireworks. She ran away and went under the hedge. I thought I'd find her cowering under it and be able to soothe her . . . but she was nowhere to be seen."

He was walking home with the family's other dog, Laser, when his wife rang to tell him that Rosie was safe.

She said: "Steve was upset, he thought he had lost her. He was searching but couldn't see her. The police phoned and asked if we had a black and white collie and that she had handed herself in. Steve was distraught when I phoned but I told him the police had her.

"It's thunderstorms, fireworks and even the *Mastermind* music that has her diving behind the settee."

The Harpers adopted Rosie eight years ago from a dog rescue centre in Devon.

Leicestershire police said: "What a lovely, clever dog. Thankfully she was wearing a collar. Our staff fetched some water for Rosie, and made fast friends."



Rosie the border collie is caught on camera arriving at the police station

Dog 'returns from the dead'

Peter Chappell

A grieving family who buried what they thought was their dog discovered days later that she was alive.

Maisie, a nine-year-old springer spaniel, went missing after being frightened on Bonfire Night. After going to retrieve a badly damaged body found by a road near Woodbridge, Suffolk, her owner, Codie Hutton, 26, consulted the vets.

"They couldn't even tell me what animal this was," Hutton said. "They just said, 'If you believe this to be your dog, then you've got to go with your heart over your head really.'"

The family buried the body but the next day had a phone call from a woman. "She said, 'Where you found the body, this was a fox, I believe, and it's been there for a week.'"

Thousands of people read about Maisie on Facebook. Two days later Hutton was phoned by a man who had spotted a dog matching her description with his thermal scope camera.

The next morning Maisie was found in a field nearby. "She was just standing there like nothing had ever happened."

Hundreds of children wait for help from reading volunteers

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

A charity has hundreds of children waiting to be matched with reading volunteers because of "unprecedented demand" from cash-strapped schools.

Bookmark, a children's literacy charity, warned that school budget cuts would increase the gap in literacy between richer and poorer pupils.

It is appealing for volunteers to listen to children read to help undo the damage caused by the pandemic. Adults can be paired with their local primary school or sign up from anywhere in the country to offer 30-minute online reading support twice a week, for six weeks. Helpers are in short supply and about 400 children aged between five and nine are on a waiting list.

About one in four children leave primary school unable to read fluently and the head of Ofsted, Amanda Spielman, said it was one of her biggest concerns. "I am worried about children who are still struggling to read when they start secondary school," she said. "This year's tests showed that nearly 175,000 pupils did not meet the expected standard in reading at the end of primary school. That means around a quarter of all Year 7s still have a reading age of below 11.

"This really matters. Children who cannot read well find it difficult to keep up in secondary school. Reading is an essential part of almost every subject."

Graihagh Crawshaw-Sadler, the chief executive of Bookmark, said: "We know that poor literacy is devastating for children and can affect their mental wellbeing, which can extend into adulthood. Reading is such a vital life skill. Enjoyment of reading is one of the biggest indicators of future success."

Before the pandemic, more than 380,000 children in the UK said they did not have a single book of their own and the charity believes that figure will rise. About seven million adults have very poor literacy skills, it said, and about half of the children it supports come from disadvantaged homes.

Figures from the Primary School Library Alliance show that the number of schools in the north of England without a library is three times higher than in the south. Cressida Cowell, the former children's laureate and author of the *How to Train Your Dragon* series, said this north-south divide was a "social mobility time bomb".

Last month the government published research showing how secondary schools can help struggling readers by targeting Year 7 pupils with reading scheme programmes similar to those used in primary school. Schools used diagnostic tests to determine which aspects of reading pupils struggled with, such as fluency rates, reading accuracy and phonic knowledge.

Curse of illiteracy, letters, page 30

Fifth of pupils regularly missing school

George Sandeman

A fifth of children are not attending school regularly and there has been a sharp rise in the number being educated at home since the start of the pandemic, according to a report.

Figures from the Department for Education were analysed by the Centre for Social Justice, which found that more than 1.5 million of the nine million schoolchildren in England were persistently absent. This is defined by the DfE as missing more than 10 per cent of school days, and previous research has suggested that such children are a third as likely as their peers to go on to higher education or employment.

During the autumn term of last year, 1.67 million children were persistently absent, an increase of 82 per cent from the previous year. The DfE said autumn figures were inflated by those who had to self-isolate because of Covid-19.



Try to bag one Hermès bags including a 2005 shiny rose crocodile Birkin valued



Product, price and availability are correct at time of going to press but may change and are subject to availability.

ELLIOTT FRANKS



at £30,000 will be sold in the Art of Luxury auction at Bonhams tomorrow

Metal detectorist strikes gold 40 years after giving up hobby

Jack Blackburn History Correspondent

If you fall out of love with a hobby, try giving it another go in 40 years. David Board struck gold almost immediately after starting his second foray into metal detecting.

What he initially thought was a sweet wrapper turned out to be an exceptionally rare medieval diamond ring. It is going under the hammer this month and is expected to fetch up to £40,000, considerably more than Board's original estimate.

"It was quite a wet day and mud was clinging to it, so I thought it was scrap metal gold worth £20," he said.

The former postman and lorry driver, 69, was on only the second day of his second attempt at being a detectorist when he stepped out into a Dorset field and came across a patch that was giving a strong signal.

A mere five inches beneath the surface was a diamond ring carrying with it a story almost as rich as its value, though Board may never have discovered it had his partner's son not intervened.

Adam Forsey had got Board back into metal detecting, and it was his eye that was caught by the ring when he was shown the discovery.

"Adam told me, 'That looks medieval,'" Board said. "We got hold of Lucy Shipley, the local finds liaison officer, who confirmed it."

This was in 2019, the process of identification having been elongated by the pandemic.



The ring found by David Board is expected to sell for at least £40,000

In fact the gold ring appears to date from the 14th century, is of high quality and is wonderfully well-preserved.

"This ring is in almost perfect condition and has an inverted diamond set into the raised bezel so that it comes to a point," Nigel Mills, a consultant at the auction house Noonans, said.

This may sound like an engagement ring and, upon further examination, it was found to be something very similar.

"The hoop is composed of two neatly entwined bands symbolising the union of the couple," Mills said. "Inside the band is an inscription in French *'ieo vos tien foi tenes le moy'* [As I hold your faith, hold mine]."

Six hundred years is an awfully long time for a ring to have been lost but experts, who have noted the exquisite and high quality of the ring, have a strong theory as to who the original owner was.

This particular area of 14th century Dorset was owned by the Brook family, whose scion Sir Thomas Brook was the landowner and a long-serving MP. He lived from circa 1355 to 1418 and, in 1388, he married Joan.

It was her second marriage, having been married to Robert Cheddar, but their union endured.

Sir Thomas suffered from ill health for years before predeceasing his wife by 19 years. However, they were buried together and it is not clear how her ring may have come to be lost in a field.

The apparent provenance of the piece has been engaging for Board, who enjoys speculating about who was the last person to touch the artefacts he finds, whether that be the ring or the Edward III half groat he found this week.

"I stop and think, 'How did they lose it?'," he said.

"Looking at it, it hasn't had much wear. Even more surprising, how has it survived? Because the field in question has been ploughed and the ring's not had a bit of damage to it."

The ring, which is now being called The Lady Brook Medieval diamond ring, will be sold at Noonans in London on November 29.




Proudly supporting social housing
Social housing provision is one of the most pressing challenges facing Britain. That’s why, since 2018, we’ve helped to build over 35,000 homes by providing £12.4 billion of new financing to housing associations.
HELPING BRITAIN PROSPER
LLOYDS BANKING GROUP

Chemical could make learning a new skill child's play

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

The ability of children to acquire new skills has been linked to a key chemical in the brain, which scientists believe could also help adults to become faster learners.

Whether it's learning a language or how to ride a bike, children often appear to hold an advantage over grown-ups. The research suggests that surges of a chemical messenger known as Gaba in the young brain play an important role, and the same molecule might boost the learning of adults as well.

"We might be able to restore a level of learning efficiency in adults that is similar to the one found in children," said Dr Sebastian Frank, of the University of Regensburg in Germany, who is lead author of the study.

The research involved 13 children, aged 8 to 11, and 14 adults, who were asked to learn a new skill in quickly identifying hidden visual patterns on a screen. The children performed about twice as well as the adults, suggesting that they learnt how to do the task more quickly. They were also less likely to forget how to do it.

The scientists used a technology known as functional magnetic resonance spectroscopy to observe the subjects' brains while they learnt. In particular they monitored levels of a chemical messenger known as Gaba, or gamma-aminobutyric acid.

The molecule binds to nerve cells and blocks their ability to send and receive messages to and from other nerve cells. Too little Gaba will result in a brain that hums with too much activity, which can lead to epilepsy, seizures and mood disorders.

Too much can lead to daytime sleepiness. In a healthy brain it is thought to play a role in the activity of different networks, calming some and in the process allowing others to work without being disturbed.

In the children, levels of Gaba in the visual cortex, which processes visual information, increased sharply when they were asked to learn the visual task and remained high afterwards. It is thought to be the first time that this has been observed in humans. There were no changes in levels of Gaba in adults. Frank and his colleagues suspect that the more pronounced Gaba response seen in the children served to silence certain brain networks not needed for learning.

This may allow networks required for the learning task to work more efficiently, helping the new skill to become firmly embedded.

The adults may have struggled to learn because this quieter "stabilisation" phase did not take place. The theory could help explain why old dogs struggle to learn new tricks.

The next stage of the work will look at whether it is possible to increase Gaba levels in adults. The final design of the experiment is yet to be decided, but it is likely to involve participants being shown a real-time read-out of how much of the chemical messenger they have in a key brain region. They would carry out different mental tests to see if Gaba concentrations could be increased, and whether this had an impact on learning.

"It is speculative for the moment, but over many sessions it may be possible to boost Gaba levels," Frank said. "We would like to see whether we can achieve such an effect in the adult brain."

The findings are published in Current Biology.



Scientists want to help adults become as quick on the uptake as children

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Bowie and the big band

The old 12 Bar Club on Denmark Street, London's Tin Pan Alley, which closed in 2015, has reopened as The Lower Third, named after one of David Bowie's early acts. The band's drummer was Phil Lancaster, who shared memories of playing with Bowie on Monday when the club hosted the launch of *The London Boys*, Marc Burrows's book about 1960s rock. The censors banned their first record because it mentioned drugs, so Bowie decided they had to be ultra-pure for a BBC audition. "We did a cover of *Chim Chim Chir-ee* from *Mary Poppins*," Lancaster said. "David was a man of ideas. We never questioned, we just did it." A plan for them to next do a cover of Holst's *Planets* suite, however, was a stretch too far. Bowie found that a blues quartet couldn't quite match the range of the London Symphony Orchestra.

Holst featured at St Paul's yesterday in a service for Christopher Meyer, the top diplomat who died in July. It began with I Vow to Thee My Country, *the hymn based on a poem by Cecil Spring-Rice, one of Meyer's predecessors as British ambassador to Washington, and set to Holst's* Jupiter *theme. Another diplomat appeared in the readings with a section from* Greenmantle, *written in 1916 by John Buchan, later governor of Canada.*

NO RED CARD FOR ROD

Many celebrities try to hide their identity in public but a famous face can be beneficial, if not often as a means to some light hooliganism. Paul Hayward's new biography of the England football team recalls their defeat by Scotland at Wembley in 1977, when the away fans rampaged on to the pitch and tore down the goalposts. Among the invaders was Rod Stewart, then at the peak of his fame. "Police were trying to stop fans going on," the singer said. "I lifted my hat and when the officer saw who it was he said: 'Oh all right, go on then.'"

LURE OF THE GREEN

Three years ago Matt Zarb-Cousin, a spokesman for Jeremy Corbyn when he was Labour leader, dismissed the Green Party as "bottom-feeding small timers" who were "not interested in winning or actually achieving anything" and complained that their only purpose was to take votes away from Labour. How times change. With Corbyn now out of the party, Zarb-Cousin has just decided to join the Greens.

Sir Jake Berry, the former Tory chairman, will not be following Matt Hancock into the celebrity jungle but he is tempted by other reality shows. "My phone is always on for Dancing on Ice *or* Strictly,*" he told* The Political Party. *"Mainly because you apparently lose two stone, which is where I need to go."*

FLAIR FOR FLATTERY

The late Queen didn't like her hands, says the photographer Rankin, and asked for them not to be shown in portraits. This was a small vanity compared with the first Elizabeth. The Tudor Queen was seldom happy with how she was painted and late in life forbade the showing of portraits deemed ugly. Robert Cecil, her secretary of state, put it more tactfully. "Many painters have done portraits of the Queen but none has sufficiently shown her looks or charms," he said. "Therefore Her Majesty commands all manner of persons to stop doing portraits of her until a clever painter has finished one which all other painters can copy."



PATRICK KIDD



AN ORIGINAL SUNSHINE BREAK

FLIGHTS + 7 NIGHTS HOTEL FROM | £679 PP

Book today at ba.com/stkitts

BRITISH AIRWAYS
A BRITISH ORIGINAL

oneworld ATOL PROTECTED 5985 T&Cs apply

St Kitts follow your heart

Prices are subject to change and availability. Price stated is per person based on 2 adults sharing, inclusive of all airport taxes, fees and charges (additional resort/hotel fees, taxes and service charges may apply) and includes return economy (World Traveller) flights from London Gatwick to Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport, 23kg baggage per person and a minimum of seven nights 3* accommodation in St Kitts for travel on selected dates between 01 May – 31 May 2023 inclusive only. Book by 8 December 2022. Amendment and cancellation fees are set-out at the time of booking. Full terms and conditions at ba.com/stkitts. British Airways Holidays reserve the right to amend or withdraw this offer at any time. Package Holidays from British Airways Holidays Ltd are ATOL protected (No. 5985). British Airways Holidays standard terms and conditions and conditions of carriage apply. All information is correct at time of publishing – 14 November 2022, errors and omissions excepted (E&OE).



OVER 1 IN 2 WOMEN FEEL THEIR PAIN WAS IGNORED OR DISMISSED BECAUSE OF THEIR GENDER*
SEE MY PAIN
1 in 6 women* experience severe pain every day, yet their pain is consistently overlooked in healthcare, under-represented in research and dismissed due to ingrained gender biases. This often leaves their pains misunderstood and mistreated. For us, this is painful to hear.
At Nurofen, we're committed to helping to make women's pain visible. We've commissioned the Gender Pain Gap Index Report to track and help address the issue, and will share our learnings with the whole industry.
This is just the beginning. To see our full commitments visit nurofen.co.uk/see-my-pain or scan here:
WE HEAR YOU, WE SUPPORT YOU, WE SEE YOUR PAIN.
*Nurofen Gender Pain Index Report 2022. Nurofen is the manufacturer of Nurofen 200mg Tablets. For acute pain. Contains Ibuprofen. Read label. RKT-M-01310.
SEE MY PAIN NUROFEN

AARON CHOWN/PA



Sew big Every Tangle of Thread and Rope, a 5m sculpture by Magdalena Abakanowicz, a Pole who died in 2017, is among 26 of her works in an exhibition at Tate Modern which opens tomorrow until May 21

Woman who sued over invasive knotweed must pay £100,000

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A row over an invasive plant has landed a north London homeowner with a bill for £100,000 after a judge accepted that her neighbour was not a keen gardener.

Charron Ishmael told a court that an infestation of Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*), had grown through the fence that separated her garden from her neighbour's, devaluing her property by £150,000.

Ishmael blamed Sheila Clark, 72, a retired NHS consultant, for failing to take any action to uproot the invasive plant despite being aware that it had been in her garden for years.

The court was told that the plant is notoriously destructive and difficult to eradicate.



Knotweed in Sheila Clark's garden, bottom, invaded the middle garden

Ishmael sued her neighbour but a judge at Central London county court dismissed her claim after Clark insisted that she had not noticed the knotweed before 2017 as she was "not interested in gardening".

Recorder Grahame Aldous KC ordered Ishmael to pay legal costs for the entire case estimated to amount to more than £100,000.

During the hearing, it emerged that the women owned adjoining terraced houses in Islington. Ishmael told the court she became aware of the knotweed when another neighbour pointed to canes growing higher than the fence in Clark's end-of-terrace garden.

She said the plant was "rapidly growing," was overhanging the boundary fence and eventually "came through my fencing".

Clark acknowledged that she was aware of the infestation from the summer of 2017. She told the court that she arranged for specialist contractors to treat the area and that the weeds were dug up nearly a year later.

But Ishmael claimed the 11 months that passed was an overly-long delay, during which the knotweed roots continued growing underneath the fence and into her garden. Evidence also suggested that the knotweed had been in Clark's garden for "some years" before 2017 and that it had been improperly treated.

As a result, Ishmael said she had to spend thousands of pounds to treat the infestation in her own garden. She has since sold the property for what she said was £150,000 less than the £1.1 million it was previously said to be worth.

Ckark told the court that her previous gardener had told her he knew nothing about Japanese knotweed and was shocked when he learnt that it was growing in her garden.

When told that non-expert use of a standard weedkiller may have resulted in any knotweed already there becoming even harder to treat, she reiterated that she was not a gardening expert.

"I was a doctor of medicine, I have a very busy profession and no time to do gardening except twice a year," Clark told the court, adding: "I'm just not interested in gardening, even after such a devastating thing. I keep thinking I wish I had bought a flat and not a four-bedroom house."

The judge backed Clark's defence, saying that he found her to be a "careful witness who was trying to assist me", whereas he described Ishmael as having been "obstructive".

According to the government, there is no legal requirement to remove Japanese knotweed from land unless it is causing a nuisance, but prosecutions can be brought for causing it to spread into the wild.

Behind the story

The Victorians are to blame. In 1884 John Wood's book *Hardy Perennials and Old-Fashioned Garden Flowers* described Japanese knotweed as "a capital plant for the small town garden" (Rhys Blakely writes).

A century later it is feared for its ability to break through concrete, bricks and mortar and can be so difficult to eradicate that cuttings must be treated as hazardous waste.

From April, look for dark red or pinkish spear-shaped shoots. Through spring and early summer, these will develop into fast-growing bamboo-like canes up to two metres high, with a mottled green-pink colour. The leaves are bright green and heart or shield-shaped, and grow on alternate sides of the stems. It can grow several inches a day.

Knotweed is on a list of invasive plants appended to the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Although it is not illegal to have knotweed in your garden, you have a duty to prevent it from spreading.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 puts strict limits on knotweed removal, allowing only licensed operators who use special disposal sites. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Section 14(2), it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause the species to grow in the wild. Digging it out often does not work, as the plant can regrow from even the smallest fragment of root. It has even been known to survive fire.

Never dispose of it in garden waste bins: attempts to remove and dump it have often only helped it to spread. Powerful pesticides may subdue it but a specialist removal company may be the best bet.

Meanwhile, in Japan it is valued as a medicine and as a vegetable sometimes compared to rhubarb.

007 wants licence to trim trees

Kieran Gair

The actor Daniel Craig and his wife Rachel Weisz have applied to cut back a contentious tree in the garden of their north London home.

Five years ago the couple became embroiled in a dispute over a plane tree which a neighbour had claimed was damaging his house.

The 50m tree, in the garden of the couple's £6 million townhouse, had been blamed for causing subsidence to a neighbouring property.

At the time, their neighbour Alasdair Nisbet, chief executive of Natrium Capital, a mergers and acquisitions advisory firm, applied to have the tree removed, believing it to be causing cracks in his house.

But Craig, 54, known for his role as James Bond, and Weisz, 52, star of *The Constant Gardener*, offered to prune it instead. Other residents reacted angrily to the suggestion of removal, saying it would be "worrying, upsetting and unnecessary". One said the tree was a "magnificent local landmark", according to an objection lodged at the time.

A new planning application to further cut back the tree risks reopening old wounds.

The couple are seeking permission from Camden council to cut back the tree by 13ft. They also want to trim another plane and a pear tree. They need council consent because the trees are in a conservation area.

Stephanie Radziwillowicz, a planning agent, said: "This previously reduced tree, overhanging several gardens, is in need of maintenance to slow root expansion and improve light."

A decision is expected this month.

Weekly Christmas Crackers

Our fantastic deals of the week



~~£25~~
Half price
£12.50
Baylis & Harding Wild Fig & Pomegranate 5pc Tin



~~£22~~
~~£13~~
£10
Baileys Original Irish Cream Liqueur 1L



~~£2~~
£1.50
Cadbury Medium Selection Box 145g

Sainsbury's

Prices to keep your Christmas cracking

Baileys Original Irish Cream Liqueur 1L £10, £10 / ltr, Cadbury Medium Selection Box 145g £1.50, £1.03 / 100g, Baylis & Harding Wild Fig & Pomegranate 5pc Tin £12.50.
Offers end: Baileys end 27 November, Cadbury's end 22 November and Baylis & Harding ends 22 November. Excludes Locals. Subject to availability

be drinkaware.co.uk





ANL/SHUTTERSTOCK

Sue Baker who had motor neurone disease, in action at Brands Hatch and in 1971 with Niki Lauda

Top Gear pioneer Sue Baker dies at 67

Tributes have been paid to Sue Baker, the motoring journalist best known for her role as an early presenter of *Top Gear*, after her death at the age of 67 (Kieran Gair writes).

Baker, who joined the original format of the TV series in 1980, died on Monday after suffering with motor neurone disease (MND), her family said.

She was a presenter on *Top Gear* for 11 years and appeared on more than 100 episodes of the car programme until 1991. She then left to continue her work as a motoring journalist.

In a career that included setting up and running the Motor Racing News Service, based at the Kent motor racing track Brands Hatch, she was The Observer's motoring editor for 13 years, leaving in 1995.

She competed in track races, national level rallies and drove everything from an 1899 Benz on the London-to-Brighton run to a 2018 hydrogen fuel cell car.

Geraldine Herbert, motoring editor for the Sunday Independent in Ireland, said: "I am deeply saddened to hear of the death of Sue Baker. She was a wonderful person, a brilliant journalist, and a dear friend. She blazed a trail for women in a man's world."

A spokesman for the Guild of Motoring Writers, of which Baker was vice-president and a former chairwoman, said: "Sue was a pioneer for women in automotive journalism."

A statement from Baker's family said: "It is with great sadness that we share the news of Sue's passing. A doting mother to Ian and Hannah, a loving grandmother to Tom and George, and a wonderful mother-in-law to Lucy. She passed at home this morning with family around her.

"She was a talented and prolific writer, a charismatic TV presenter and a passionate animal-lover. She had a life and career that many would envy, but did it all with such grace that she was admired and respected by all who knew her.

"We know she meant so much to so many. Thank you to everyone who has supported her over the last few years as she battled with MND."

Obituary, page 54

Tycoon faces £900,000 bill for tax avoidance

David Byers Assistant Money Editor

A tycoon faces a huge tax bill after he was found to have taken part in an avoidance scheme promoted by a big accountancy firm.

Timothy Watts, chairman and president of the recruitment giant Pertemps, which has an annual turnover of £1 billion, must pay £530,000 plus £370,000 in interest after taking part in the scheme marketed by Grant Thornton. He says he was repeatedly assured operated within tax rules.

Court documents released this week showed Watts paid the firm close to £100,000 up front simply to take part in the scheme in 2003, even though he admitted he knew it was high risk at the time. The 73-year-old then made a complex series of investments in government securities, which created the impression of notional losses of £1.35 million, which he declared in his 2004 tax return to artificially reduce his burden.

He told the tribunal he had been assured by Grant Thornton that a "top tax QC had said that these arrangements worked". However, in 2018 HMRC deemed the initiative to be a tax avoidance scheme — a verdict upheld in court by a first-tier tax tribunal in a decision published last week, which said that his real loss was just over £6,000.

It is the latest scheme marketed 20 years ago by Grant Thornton to be exposed as tax avoidance, after a similar tax tribunal verdict in February against CC Entertainments, owned by Cheryl Tweedy, the former Girls Aloud singer and TV presenter.



Timothy Watts is chairman of the recruitment firm Pertemps

Watts paid the accountancy firm fees of £88,000 to take part in the scheme. Questioned on whether he realised there was a "very significant tax saving" by taking part in the scheme, which was known as gilt strips, he said: "To the best of my knowledge, in UK law, tax avoidance is a perfectly legal and moral thing to do. Tax evasion is not."

Delivering her verdict, Dr Heidi Poon said Watts understood what he was doing. "He has a quick grasp of the essence of matter, as befitting the chairman of a sizable and successful business. It would seem that he had made the decision to enter into the arrangements after grasping the fundamentals as set out in the 'Janet-and-John' version of Grant Thornton's promotional literature."

John Hood, a tax partner at Moore Kingston Smith, the accountancy firm, said the case was a landmark judgment that would be "the tip of the iceberg", as thousands of rich clients took part in the scheme promoted by Grant Thornton.

An HMRC spokesman said: "We welcome the tribunal's decision, which confirmed that over 99 per cent of the claimed loss was artificial and invalid. This case is yet another demonstration that the vast majority of tax avoidance schemes simply do not work and people should steer clear of them."

Watts told The Times: "At the time of entering into the transaction, it was a legal, tax-planning option. I am disappointed it has taken almost 20 years to come to its conclusion. I will be appealing the outcome."

A Grant Thornton spokeswoman said the company would not be issuing a comment on the decision.

TV diver finds lost wedding ring in Cam

Emma Yeomans

An underwater archaeologist has found a wedding ring in the River Cam in Cambridge after the man who lost it pleaded with him for help.

Max Spencer, who had been punting, marked the spot where the ring had fallen in and went back with a snorkel but the water was too dark.

The next day his mother saw Gary Bankhead on *Antiques Road Trip* on BBC1 and said he might help. Bankhead, who stars in Sky History's *River Hunters*, said: "I was on holiday in Cornwall when I received a long email from Max telling me about his lost wedding ring and asking if I had an ideas about how to retrieve it.

"I get a lot of requests for help and I normally have to say no, but it was clear Max was very upset about losing his ring and his story tugged at my heartstrings, so I offered to help."

Bankhead, who lives in Durham, said: "We met in a field and had to carry the dive kit about a mile to the place where he said his ring had disappeared. I then put on my kit and went under the water with a specialist metal detector, set to find gold.

After an hour and a half, on his second dive he got a signal. "Then suddenly I saw a glint of gold in the soft mud in my torch beam and it was the ring. It was actually about 2m away from where we had started the search. Max was absolutely ecstatic, it was a lovely end to the day."



Ends: 31.01.23. **3x data offer:** For UK use and zone A only. Extra data not included in Total Rollover. Auto renews for up to three BVBs provided your BVB has enough credit. When fourth BVB is renewed, data will return to previous allowance. **Roaming in Zone A:** 25GB fair use applies. For terms & to find out how you can roam visit: www.vodafone.co.uk/payg

News

Universities told to 'decolonise' maths courses

George Sandeman

Universities have been encouraged to "decolonise" courses including maths, computing and classics in order to teach students how colonialism and its legacy have shaped the subjects.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, which advises universities on what to teach and monitors the quality of courses, has for the first time included critical race theory in its recommendations.

The guidance concerns 25 fields of study and was issued at the end of March. In its statement regarding geography degrees, the QAA said that the subject "draws from knowledge traditions formed through colonial enlightenment science".

It said that this was used to aid the "overseas expansion of British and European empires, which was justified using narratives of white, able and heteronormative superiority".

It added: "Colonial and imperial geographies, and their contemporary legacies of systemic disadvantage, for example, racism, classism, ablism, homophobia and patriarchy, must therefore be acknowledged and countered by fostering an inclusive learning community encompassing a range of participants, such as students, academics, technicians, professional staff, visitors and external partners."

It said computing courses should address "how divisions and hierarchies of colonial value are replicated and reinforced within the computing subject".

On maths the QAA said: "The curriculum should present a multicultural and decolonised view of mathematics, statistics and operational research, informed by the student voice".

It said that psychology courses were "historically based on research and theory from homogenous white, educated, industrialised, rich and democratic countries and do not represent diverse voices and contributions to the discipline".

The QAA, which is partially funded by membership fees paid by universities, has no formal powers but advises the Office for Students (OfS), which regulates higher education in England.

Professor Dennis Hayes, from Academics for Academic Freedom, said the advice would damage the quality of teaching if heeded by universities.

Hayes, who lectures on education at the University of Derby, told the Daily Mail: "This allows activists to push their feelgood political ideas. Instead of teaching the best that is known and thought in each discipline they have been occupied by political activists always defending alleged victims.

"The loss to students is considerable, they are being denied proper access to the study of subjects and therefore legacy of human knowledge."

A spokesman for the QAA said the advise was to be used "as a tool for reflection when designing new courses or updating existing courses. It's up to the individual academics and their departments whether or how closely they follow this guidance.".

Susan Lapworth, chief executive of the OfS, said: "All decisions about the quality of higher education courses are made by the OfS and not the QAA."



In Scotland and Wales, in store alcohol prices may be higher and alcohol may not be sold before 10am in accordance with Scottish laws. Pouilly Fuissé 75cl, £9.99 per 75cl. Products and prices may vary in Scotland, Wales, Aldi Local and online.
drinkaware.co.uk for the facts
Please drink responsibly

IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

TABLE

YOU CAN'T COOK IT LIKE THAT!
Which rules to ignore and which to follow
PULLOUT



SPORT

WHY CANADA CAN BE THE SURPRISE PACKAGE OF THIS WORLD CUP
A Bayern Munich star explains
MAIN PAPER

TIMES Travel Offers

Times readers save £100 with the code TIMES100^



Costa Rica tour

Experience the rainforest, mountains and abundant wildlife of the tropical paradise of Costa Rica on a thrilling 15-day tour

This wonderful 15-day tour to Costa Rica will take you to incredible national parks, wildlife hotspots and on exciting hikes, all with the guidance of an expert. Costa Rica has more protected land than any other and is the perfect place to discover flora and fauna that you'll never forget. From Howler monkeys and catatonic sloths, to noisy toucans and busily nesting turtles (in season), it would be impossible to count the exciting species you'll see while you're here. Complete with cloud forests and lined with the Caribbean coast and Pacific coast, Costa Rica is a paradise waiting to be explored.

ABTA Travel with confidence · ATOL PROTECTED

*Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Tour is 15 days total including flights. Single supplement on request. Additional dates may be available, please call for details. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. Prices are correct at time of publication, and subject to confirmation at time of booking. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Exodus Travels, ABTA Y0751, ATOL 25825, a company wholly independent of News UK. ^Quote TIMES100 to be eligible for the £100pp discount, included in the price above.

15 DAYS FROM
£3,999*
per person

Departures
December 2022 to December 2023

Price Includes
- ✓ Return flights from the UK, arrival and departure transfers
- ✓ All breakfasts, eight lunches, six dinners
- ✓ 14 nights' accommodation in comfortable hotels and lodges
- ✓ All transport and listed activities
- ✓ Services of a tour leader

Our Trusted Partner
exodustravels

CALL TODAY ON
0808 239 0559
QUOTE TIMES100^

thetimes.co.uk/costa-rica

Bombe squad fail to go out with a bang

Television Ben Dowell

The Great British Bake Off
Channel 4
★★★☆☆

"I don't care who wins, I just love them all," said Prue Leith at the start of last night's final of *The Great British Bake Off*. And with these words, the great lady put her finger on the main problem with this series: everyone was a bit too nice, especially the three finalists. Spoilers ahead…

Sandro the master decorator, Abdul the show's late developer and the eventual champion Syabira, purveyor of strange but oddly compelling flavours, may have had their contrasting skill sets, but none of their personalities stood out in the manner of last year, when the nation was divided between Team Jürgen and Team Giuseppe (I am still annoyed that the German didn't win).

This finale rather went through the motions: a summer picnic, with a worthy accent on British ingredients (including a sustainability twist of Devonshire lemon), then it was a taxing summer-pudding bombe and finally a showstopper celebrating "our beautiful planet". Unfortunately none of the bakes really dazzled the eyes or got the glands salivating, and as an event occasionally felt as flat as Abdul's choux buns.

Still, there was something to be said for a year in which the production returned to the old *Bake Off* stomping ground at Welford Park, Berkshire, for the first time since the pandemic. Reassuring warmth and comfort is probably not something to be sniffed at these days. However, the tendency in recent competitions for the contestants to pal up was on overdrive this year. They almost wished each other as much success as they wanted it for themselves. It's a great testament to humanity but doesn't make for exciting television when they spend half the time hugging each other.

It also didn't help that "Noelypops" (as Matt Lucas called Noel Fielding) wasn't around for the first two challenges, felled by an unexplained illness. That left Lucas to chivvy the contestants along in that annoying manner which has become the norm despite the fact that it must irritate and disturb the bakers.

When Fielding returned to the tent, looking peaky, he could offer only more bonhomie to complement the heartwarming back stories we had already heard. Abdul showed us what we always suspected — that he was a lovable nerd. The Malaysian-born Syabira had a partner called Bradley who described himself as "proudest boyfy ever", while Sandro had a lovely mum of Angolan heritage whose pride in him was as touching as his apparent surprise at being there at all. "I thought this would never really happen to a boy like me," he said, although that is less the case with the passing years. Has this show ever been less than impeccably diverse?

Unfortunately, Sandro's summer bombe bombed, a "proper disaster", as he called it (despite his prayer to Beyoncé) and the judges didn't argue with him. Abdul may have performed better on the night, but Syabira was the most consistent across the series and I am pleased she triumphed. Although, like Leith, I would have been happy for any of them to win. Which brings us back to the fact that the *Bake Off* kitchen needs a bit more heat and spice.

CHANNEL 4/LOVE PRODUCTIONS



Syabira deservedly took the title for her strange but oddly compelling flavours

Genetic clues to honeybees' short lifespan

Rhys Blakely Science Correspondent

Honeybees kept in laboratories are living only half as long as they did 50 years ago, according to a study that may explain why outdoor colonies often appear to be struggling.

Pesticides, parasitic mites and a shortage of wildflowers have been cited as possible causes of a decline in colonies in Europe and the US, but the new research suggests that genetics may also play a role.

The authors of the study, published in Scientific Reports, gathered data from scientists who have kept honeybees in laboratories in the US over the past half century. They found that since 1969, lifespans had dropped from a median of 34 days to 18 days.

"We're isolating bees from the colony life just before they emerge as adults, so whatever is reducing their lifespan is happening before that point," said Anthony Nearman, a PhD student at the University of Maryland. "If we can isolate some genetic factors, then maybe we can breed for longer-lived bees."

The researchers also built a mathematical model to predict the effects of a 50 per cent reduction in lifespan on a beekeeping business, where lost colonies are replaced annually. It suggests that colonies would fall by 33 per cent a year. This is similar to the average winter and annual loss rates of 30 per cent and 40 per cent reported by US beekeepers over the past 14 years.

We know the news is a lot right now.

BritishRedCross

If all this bad news is feeling a bit overwhelming, you're not alone.

In the past 12 months, we've been on the frontline of more emergencies than ever before. And, each year, that number just keeps on rising.

In a complex and unpredictable world, we're needed more – and more often – than ever, in the UK and overseas. And that's why we really need to ask for your help.

Donate to our new British Red Cross Emergencies Fund and, by doing one simple thing, you'll help us respond even faster, plan better, and save more lives.

Please donate to the Emergencies Fund today

Call 0300 004 0338

Text NOW or NOW NO to 70141 to give £10
or visit **redcross.org.uk/now**

Text NOW to consent to future telephone and SMS marketing from the British Red Cross. Text NOW NO to give without consenting.*

THE EMERGENCIES FUND

Please send to: Emergencies Fund Q4 Press Ref: 181798
Freepost Plus RUCB–JCXU–SRSJ, British Red Cross, Bumpers Way, Bumpers Farm, CHIPPENHAM, SN14 6NG

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

I would like to make a donation of £20 ☐ **£40** ☐ **£60** ☐ **£100** ☐

Other £ ____

☐ I enclose a cheque, made payable to British Red Cross **OR**
☐ Please debit my Visa/Mastercard/CAF Charity card with the amount specified

Card number ____ Expiry date __/__

Title Forename

Surname

Address

Postcode Phone number**

Email**

Please only give us your telephone number/email address if you are happy for us to contact you in this way with updates about how your gifts are helping and how you can donate and help in other ways.

giftaid it

Gift Aid allows us to claim back 25p of tax for every £1 you give, making your donation go further.

☐ I am a UK taxpayer and I would like the British Red Cross to reclaim the tax on all qualifying donations I have made, as well as any future donations, until I notify them otherwise. Please tick. I understand that if I pay less income/capital gains tax than the amount of gift aid claimed on all my donations in the tax year in which they are received, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please remember to let us know of any changes to your tax status, including changes to your name or address, or if you need to cancel this agreement. **181798**

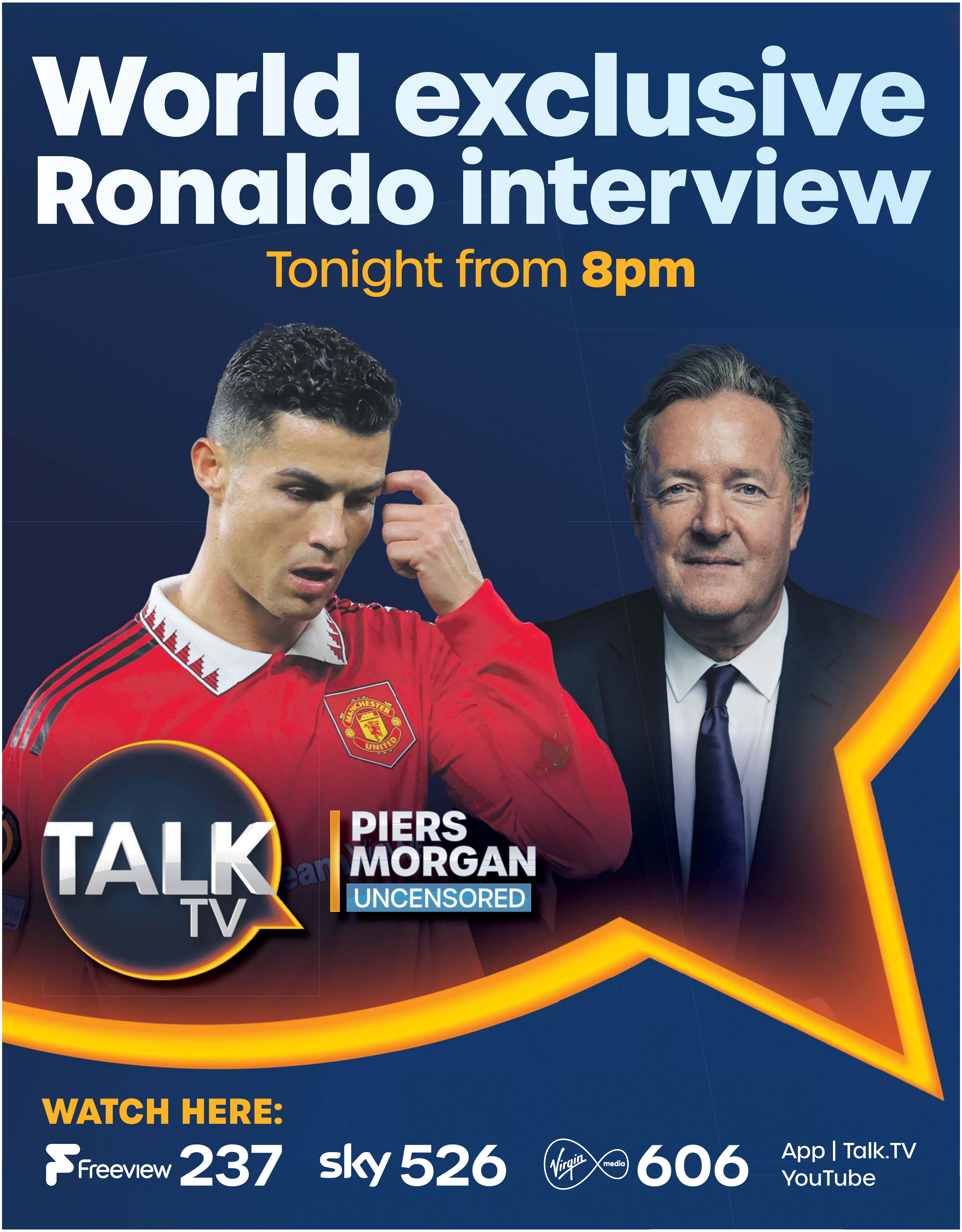
Keeping in touch Your support makes a life-changing difference to people in crisis. We write to our supporters to update you about the work of the British Red Cross, and how you can help and donate in other ways. You can change the way we contact you at any time by visiting redcross.org.uk/keepingintouch or calling Freephone 0800 2800 491.

Privacy statement The British Red Cross is committed to privacy and will use personal data for the purpose it was collected or other legitimate purposes we tell you about: for example, to provide goods, services or information you have requested or to administer donations or services we provide. We may also analyse data we collect to better understand the people who support us or those who use or deliver our services. Sometimes this means us combining that data with information from reliable public sources. Our research allows us to tailor communications and services in a more focused and cost-effective way, as well as better meeting your needs and the needs of others like you. However, we will never do this in a way that intrudes on personal privacy and will not use your data for a purpose that conflicts with previously expressed privacy preferences. For full details about how we use personal data, our legal basis for doing so and your privacy rights, please see our privacy notice online at redcross.org.uk/privacy

Donations will be evenly distributed between supporting our response to ongoing and emerging disasters across the globe, and more broadly helping those in crisis wherever the need is greatest.

*Texts cost £10 +1 standard message (we receive 100%).
For full T&Cs visit redcross.org.uk/mobile. The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738), Isle of Man (0752), Jersey (430) and Guernsey (CH142).

The power of kindness


World exclusive
Ronaldo interview
Tonight from 8pm
TALK TV
PIERS MORGAN
UNCENSORED
WATCH HERE:
Freeview 237
sky 526
Virgin media 606
App | Talk.TV
YouTube

Putin's drained elites are running out of road
Roger Boyes
Page 28

Comment

Hunt means this to hurt — and he's right

The autumn statement will produce squeals from left and right but history shows this is no time to postpone the pain

Daniel Finkelstein



@DANNYTHEFINK

Hadn't they heard of the "Barber boom"? When Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng produced their catastrophic mini-budget they wanted everyone to think of Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. But instead people started talking about Anthony Barber, Ted Heath's chancellor.

In 1972 the Heath government embarked on a dash for growth, setting itself the target of 10 per cent growth within two years. To support this ambition the chancellor produced an expansionary budget involving massive tax cuts, big spending pledges and, of course, vast borrowing. Barber was, he said, sure it wouldn't be inflationary. Heath thought it would work. It was inflationary, and it didn't work.

As the stupidity of trying something similar again was obvious before Truss and Kwarteng tried something similar again, it is worthwhile adding a little about the political reaction to Barber's budget.

When Barber sat down, he received a standing ovation from the Tory benches. And Labour liked it too. As Dominic Sandbrook says in *State of Emergency*, his history of the period, "the most common complaint among Labour MPs, for whom no budget could be too generous, was that he had not gone far enough".

This was not just the view in parliament. "The overwhelming view on Fleet Street and in the City at this time was that we needed an expansionary budget," Heath recorded in his memoirs. The Times, under its editor William Rees-Mogg, felt that "a close look at the budget arithmetic" suggested it might not have been reflationary enough.

The handful of people who worried about it were those dismissed as being in the grip of Treasury orthodoxy. This orthodoxy being that, taking one thing with another, it is better to pay for things that you buy and to be careful about inflation. Barber, being a Treasury minister, was nervous about his own measures but too weak to be able to resist Heath.

There is, as this episode demonstrates, a strong political impulse to support borrowing. The right want tax cuts, the left spending. Those who resist borrowing are sometimes attacked as ideological, as people who relish cutting spending or wish to raise taxes. The alternative attack is that we (for I am one of them) are dense, because we don't appreciate that the state isn't a household, so it can borrow what it likes (it can't).

> Kwarteng fanned the flames and forgot to call the fire brigade

Jeremy Hunt's autumn statement will come under every kind of attack. The spending reductions will be attacked as too severe, the tax rises as too great and the borrowing as too little. As if we haven't just embarked on a massive experiment of doing the opposite and it wasn't a great failure.

I watched Kwarteng's interview with TalkTV the other day with astonishment. He thought his policy had been correct but they had gone about it too quickly. He and Liz Truss moved home, poured petrol on every flammable sofa in the house, opened all the windows to let in air, set fire to the electricity fuse box, fanned the flames to make sure the curtains caught light, watched as the building began to burn and then forgot to call the fire brigade. And his reflection was that speed was the problem. They had done all this too quickly!

He genuinely argued that all this was the right thing to do, though perhaps next time they'd leave the bit with the curtains until later. And there seem to be people who agree with him. There are voices on the right warning Hunt not to raise taxes. Kwarteng — still dispensing economic advice, which is a business, in the circumstances, he might think of leaving — seems to be one of them.

"What should we do? I know, let's see what Kwasi Kwarteng thinks, he might have some useful tips." Perhaps not.

I have spent the past ten years arguing with people about austerity. It's quite hard going. There seems to be a hardening consensus that it was all unnecessary. I think quite the opposite, that it was essential. And that without it, we would have gone into Covid already with a borrowing crisis.

The sophisticated critics on the left argue that what was wrong about austerity was the timing. It wasn't the right time to reduce borrowing. And it's not at all a stupid point.

The problem is that there never seems to be a right time to reduce the deficit. In fact during 50 years, and certainly during the past 15, there has never been a time when these critics have argued to do that.

I was in the room when David Cameron and George Osborne hit on the idea of using the phrase "We are all in it together". They felt that they needed a freeze in public sector wages and had discovered from focus groups what public sector workers thought about it.



Kwasi Kwarteng thinks his only mistake as chancellor was to act too quickly

Surprisingly, and impressively, these workers saw what needed to be done and were quite supportive. So long as they weren't alone. So long as they weren't being singled out. And fair enough.

My purpose here is not to relitigate whether the Cameron government lived up to the "all in it together" ideal. It is to point out the gap between politics and economics.

Economically you wish to boost public sector wages when everyone else's wages are falling, in order to try to boost the economy. That's the moment to borrow and spend. The only moment you can control public spending on wages, politically, is when private wages are under pressure too. When private wages are booming, and the economy is booming, people want spending to go up and taxes to go down. When private wages are going up, of course there will be pressure for public sector wages to go up too.

The moment when the economic and political imperatives are the same — the moment when you want to reduce borrowing and stand a chance of actually doing so — doesn't ever seem to come. The argument that says "yes, we need to control things but not now" is just a way of saying that you want to put off doing something for ever.

> We cannot inflate our way out of our problems by tax cuts

This country has been made poorer by circumstances — Covid, the war in Ukraine — and by decisions we have made — Brexit, the Truss mini-budget. So it can afford to buy fewer things. We need a strategy for growth but we cannot inflate our way out of our problems by unfunded spending or tax cuts. In so far as we ever thought we could, we have tested that idea to destruction.

Not every announcement Hunt makes will be the right one, not every choice he makes will be sensible, not every prediction he relies on will be accurate. But very broadly he is right to put up taxes and right to control expenditure. And it is inevitable that we will all feel it.

We are — aren't we? — all in this together.

daniel.finkelstein@thetimes.co.uk

DIGITAL + PRINT SUBSCRIPTION

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

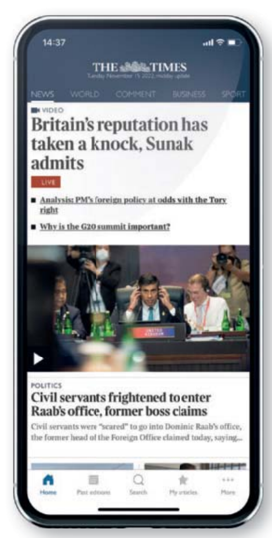
Our trusted journalism, however you want it.

A Digital + Print subscription gives you choice. You can read the paper in print or on your tablet and keep up with the latest news with our Live app.

Sign up today at **thetimes.co.uk/subscribe**



Classic app
- Newspaper format
- Convenient
- Share and save articles



Live app
- Breaking news
- Live updates
- Interactive features

Comment

Putin's drained elites are running out of road

Cynicism of Russia's veteran foreign minister symbolises a system sucked dry by one-man rule

Roger Boyes



@ROGERBOYES

Sergey Lavrov was once a swaggering figure on the diplomatic stage. The late Richard Holbrooke, once hailed as America's choleric diplomatic genius, recognised in Lavrov a fellow spirit, praising his "intelligence, energy and considerable arrogance". Moscow's golden boy, his master's sardonic voice, Lavrov has been Vladimir Putin's foreign minister for 18 years and those able to study his crumpled face at the G20 summit this week would have seen in its hollows and crannies the portrait of an exhausted regime.

Putin's power elites are running out of road. There is nowhere for them to go. Exile doesn't work if your millions are frozen by western sanctions and you are on a travel blacklist. Defect and you risk being defenestrated or poisoned. Speak out and you will be expelled from court and jailed. As for unflinching loyalty, that, as Lavrov is finding, is just another form of disempowerment. Little wonder that his arrival in Bali, to stand in for Putin, was watched so forensically: how close is this very visible 72-year-old apologist for a dysfunctional autocratic state to the end of his tether?

Indonesian sources said the minister visited a private hospital soon after landing; there was talk of heart problems. Moscow denounced such reports as fake news and released video footage of Lavrov in shorts, supposedly on the balcony of his hotel. Soon, geolocation analysis published on social media showed the balcony was in fact on the grounds of the hospital. His physical condition remains a mystery. The next sighting was of Lavrov watching a Zoomed Volodymyr Zelensky, buoyed by the liberation of Kherson, addressing what he called the G19 — that is the G20 minus Russia.

This trip was only the latest pit stop in an odyssey of humiliation that began, as far as I can judge, at the Munich Security Conference in 2015. The year before, Russia had

> Study his crumpled face for the portrait of an exhausted regime

snatched Crimea from Ukraine in an operation staged according to the rules of hybrid warfare. "Little green men" had moved in, Moscow buying time by spreading confusing narratives about their identity. A cyber-attack isolated the peninsula. A gross violation of international law. Not so, claimed Lavrov to the world's security community. Did not the UN guarantee the rights of nations to self-determination? The audience smirked. He continued: had not West Germany annexed East Germany in 1989? There hadn't even been a referendum. This time the audience guffawed. Lavrov wasn't exactly booed off the stage but he was shown quite clearly that he was selling a ludicrous and offensive narrative.

That's how it has continued and every subsequent Lavrov outing has diminished him. The poisoning of Alexei Navalny? Could have been done by the Germans, claimed Lavrov. "There won't be a war," he said earlier this year, just before Russia invaded. Then: "We didn't even attack Ukraine." More: "The West is plotting a nuclear strike on Russia." And: "Ukraine is run by neo-Nazis and drug addicts."

The point is sometimes to justify or divert from yet another abrupt Russian U-turn. Putin is of course the problem. The Kremlin accepts a grain export deal, halts it, resumes, always testing international reaction. It doubles back on nuclear talk, perhaps because of pressure from China, but tries out a "dirty bomb" narrative. The whole public discourse on mobilisation is supposed to deceive the Russian public. There can be no acknowledged war because every Russian mother knows that war comes with costs. If a ceasefire is negotiated Lavrov will defend it. If war escalates, he will defend that too. Putin has emasculated him.

What is happening then is that the elites — the alpha dogs in the energy sector, the security apparat — are losing a sense of what binds them in a national mission. They're bewildered by the pace at which plausible deniability has become implausible. And the whole internal logic of the war is imploding: it's not just Lavrov and the foreign ministry that is out of the loop but the whole machine.

In 1957 there was an attempt to oust Nikita Khrushchev by the so-called Anti-Party Group: Georgy Malenkov, Vyacheslav Molotov and Lazar Kaganovich. It failed and they were fired. Khrushchev was toppled later, in 1964. But the first attempt was only feasible because there was a collective decision-making mechanism. Last February, however, on the very cusp of the invasion, the supposedly heavyweight federal Security Council was stammeringly incapable of shifting Putin's headlong rush to war.

Authoritarian states such as Putin's have lost the mechanism for change. Russian street protests cannot influence foreign policy decisions, as the American public swayed the White House on Vietnam. Nor it seems can Lavrov. He used to be a proud defender of the Putin system and a beneficiary. He is even more a product of the Soviet system than Putin, an enthusiastic student-cum-construction worker, tutored through the bureaucratic maze by his mother, multi-lingual and, like his boss, deeply suspicious of the colour revolutions and the perfidious West. But with a hefty property portfolio and two foreign-educated daughters, one by his mistress, and expensive tastes in western gadgets, no one could claim him to be a socialist. If anything, like so many who spent decades in the company of Putin, he is a nihilist.

A profile like his should have made him a creative thinker about how a new westward-looking Russian foreign policy could be shaped, one that could be managed successfully for his daughters' generation. Instead, he has become a cynical time-server, sucked dry by the one-man state which has developed a taste for war rather than statecraft.

Thunderer

Time to get tough with Egypt over Alaa Abdel Fattah

Jawad Iqbal

There are few people better versed in how to exert diplomatic leverage over Egypt's military dictatorship than John Casson, who served as the British ambassador in Cairo for four years until 2018. It is time to listen when someone of his experience launches a forensic and damning critique of the government's handling of the high-profile case of Alaa Abdel Fattah, the jailed British-Egyptian pro-democracy activist.

Abdel Fattah has spent most of the past decade in prison for his opposition to military rule and has been on a seven-month hunger strike, which he announced yesterday he is ending. Casson did not mince his words over where the blame for Abdel Fattah's prolonged ordeal lies: "If we think where we were last week, the prime minister went to Egypt and he said to the president of Egypt the persecution of this British national has got to stop, and in the week since it has become clear that Egypt is playing for time and banking on our ministers losing interest and being all talk," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

He accused James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, of a misstep in engaging with the Egyptians' claims that the dissident is not formally a British citizen: "Every time anyone gives airtime to that Egyptian talking point it is gaslighting. It's like when an abuser tells a person who is being abused that they're responsible or it's not really abuse."

Another black mark was meted out for Cleverly's comments on Monday at the foreign affairs select committee, where he said he remained "interested" in the case, a shift in language from his earlier commitment to work "tirelessly" for the prisoner's release. According to Casson: "The Egyptians understand power and they will be smelling the weakness in what the foreign secretary said."

He is spot on. Why is the Foreign Office treating this as if it were merely a procedural disagreement between two countries operating under the rule of law? Egypt is not a democracy. Its military rulers understand only blunt language.

Casson is right to suggest that it would be better for the defence secretary to call his Egyptian counterpart directly and point out the consequences if Egypt continues to defy international norms. First to go should be Britain's generous financial support, amounting to more than £50 million between 2016 and 2020. The close military and defence links between the two countries are another useful bargaining chip.

The first duty of any government is to protect its citizens wherever they are. That's why this case is critical. The time for diplomatic pussyfooting is over.

Jawad Iqbal is a freelance writer

Matthew Parris Notebook

Telling truth to power is going to cost me a prize

Goodbye to any future invitations to media awards ceremonies. Farewell to being shortlisted for any award ever again, as I was last week. And by all means accuse me of sour grapes because — it's true — I do love winning prizes and I didn't get one. But it's time to "tell truth to power", a phrase repeated ad nauseam at the event in question.

The power I must tell truth to is the Society of Editors Media Freedom Awards. Five hours — *five hours* – soaked in sanctimony and self-regard. If we heard "tell truth to power" or "hold the powerful to account" once, we heard it 50 times. Anyone would think we were martyrs about to be burnt at the stake, not a collection of perfectly well-remunerated journos and TV executives with the fun job of kicking a few shins from time to time, enjoying a lavish shindig whose cost would probably have bailed out half a dozen struggling local newspapers. On and on it went, the only bright spot being The Guardian's Marina Hyde (a deserving "commentator of the year") declining to make a speech. Every so often a great opportunity not to make a speech arises, and (alone among 36 — argh! — category winners) Marina grasped it with both hands.

There was, however, a moment I'll always treasure. The Daily Mirror were having a particularly good night but everyone was quiet to watch a harrowing clip from an award-winning documentary about Afghan women forced to sell their kidneys, the camera lingering on each awful scar as the poor women raised their clothing. After the clip came a second's shocked silence. It was broken by the loud pop of a champagne cork from the Mirror table. Only the cold-hearted kept straight faces. Oh, Evelyn Waugh (I thought) thou shouldst be living at this hour. It could have been a scene from *Scoop*.



Way out west

Rereading some George Eliot last weekend I was reminded of the slow death of the word "country" as meaning a part of England. In a 19th-century Eliot novel, when someone goes to "another country" they go to a different region. This usage lingers on in the 21st century only (I think) in "the Black Country" and "the West Country", which I notice the BBC is trying to kill in favour of "the southwest", an imprecise and flavourless expression suitable only for vague weather reports.

From boyhood I can remember grown-ups talking about "the North Country" and you still occasionally hear someone described as having "a north-country accent": an expression we southerners used in the past. Ah well, the past is another country.

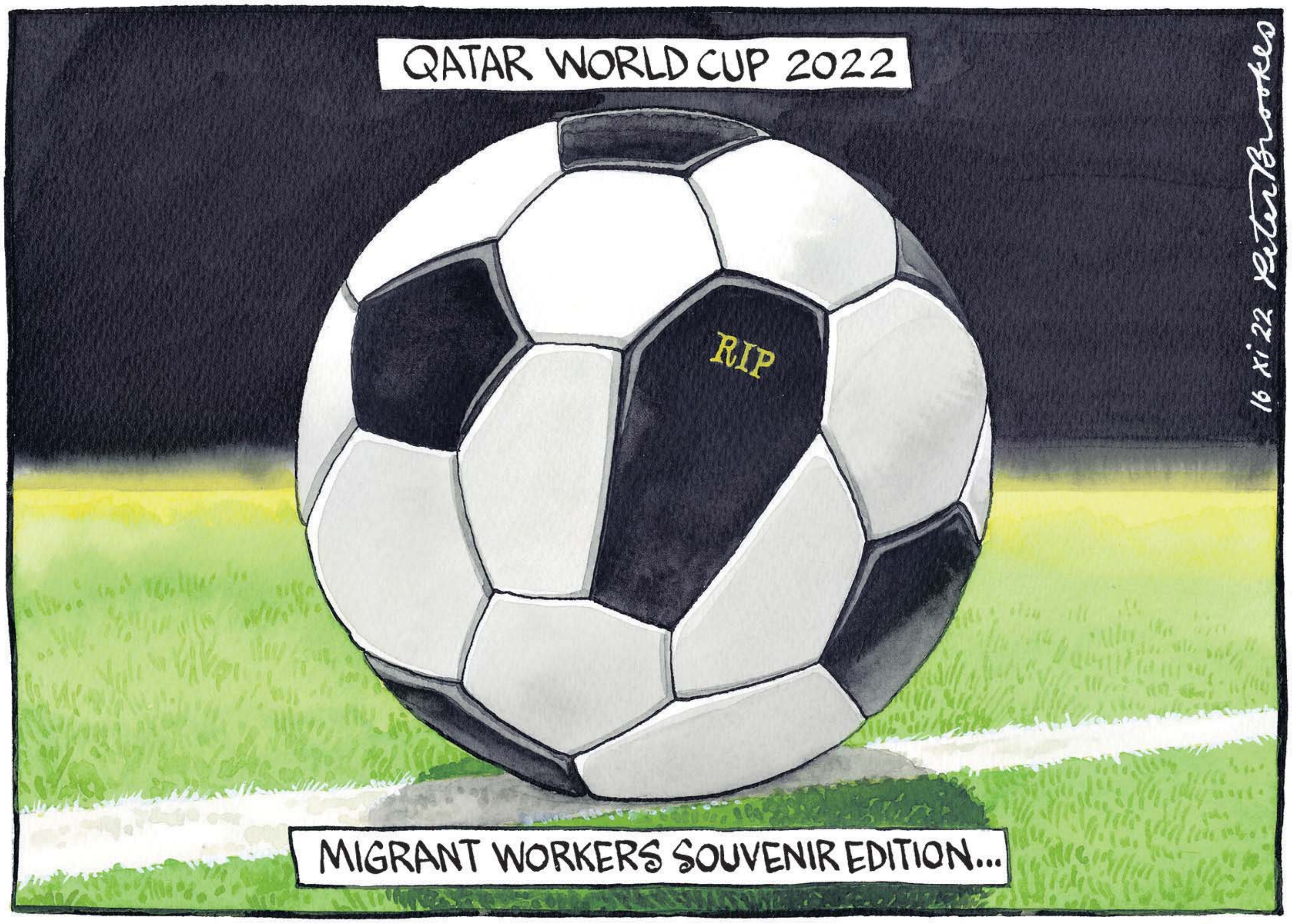
Jungle booking

I am beginning to envy Matt Hancock. £400,000 just to eat some nasty food! Wow! I'm available. But only if the price is right. I seem to remember being approached informally myself, either directly or through some kind of a feeler, when *I'm A Celebrity* was fairly new, nearly 20 years ago. The fee mentioned was around £40-£50,000, as I recall. I declined. To cheapen myself I'd want a lot more money.

Comfort break

Desperation on encountering yet another public lavatory still locked up after lockdown ended has got me compiling a list of things that should have started again but haven't, plus things that should have stopped but haven't. I suspect that individuals and organisations, obliged to discontinue providing services during the pandemic, have taken advantage of the break to discontinue stuff they were anyway unenthusiastic about doing. Public lavatories are a damn nuisance for local authorities but a huge convenience (sorry!) for the public.

Meanwhile, government's itch to nanny has spotted an excuse for boring on about washing our hands, although it's a full two years since the theory that Covid-19 is significantly spread by surface contact was scientifically discredited. How many plastic disinfectant dispensers, how many sachets of gel and how many unrecyclable, drain-clogging, environmentally damaging wet wipes have been wasted through their continued provision beyond lockdown? Official NHS advice still warns that undisinfected hands spread coronavirus. Why should I believe anything else the NHS advises when I know that's a lie?



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.co.uk or call 020 7711 7826

NHS travails add to cancer patients' dread

Trauma of treatment is made worse by financial worries, long waiting lists and a shortage of doctors and nurses

Alice Thomson

@ALICETTIMES

Monday afternoon and the rain is trickling down the window as Lauren clutches her cup of tea. Just as the pandemic was ending, she was diagnosed with stage 3 bowel cancer, aged 38, and must undergo chemotherapy, radiotherapy and an operation to remove a tumour from her bowel. The treatments could induce menopause and infertility, and she will live with a stoma. But what is panicking Lauren most as we sit in the west London centre of Maggie's, the charity that provides cancer support, is how she and her partner can support their sons, aged two and four, without her salary. "There's the escalating food and heating bills, mortgage, petrol — we've already ditched the after-school clubs and postponed our marriage," she says, in tears.

Cancer may no longer be a death sentence, but it's becoming a life sentence. The pandemic already meant sufferers were struggling to cope with often delayed diagnosis and care; now the cost of living crisis is hitting them hardest, as many have had to quit their jobs during treatment and are resorting to living on drastically reduced means at a highly vulnerable time of their lives.

A survey by OnePoll for Maggie's found that three in ten people with a cancer diagnosis are now more concerned about surviving financially than about their illness; two thirds are frightened of their heating bills; more than half think they will struggle to pay for food for their family; and three quarters say such concerns are jeopardising their chance of recovery. One mother with breast cancer I met was returning to stacking supermarket shelves while she was still having gruelling chemo; a young man, a hairdresser, was sleeping in his car to be near hospital and save on the cost of transport.

> More than half think they will struggle to buy food for their family

Those living with cancer often have to take time off work to recuperate, yet they bear additional costs: hospital parking or taxi bills if they are too immune-suppressed or fatigued to go by public transport; escalating heating bills because the therapies can make their hands and feet more vulnerable to cold; even wigs and vitamins are added expenses.

This financial fear is overshadowing the fact that they are living with a debilitating illness or the uncertainty about what happens if their cancer returns. Nurses are increasingly being asked by patients if they can truncate their treatments so they can go back to work, as they can't afford to be away any longer. Noah, a single dad with five-year-old twins and pancreatic cancer, was struggling to pay for school uniforms so returned too early to his job as a bus driver and collapsed on his first day back. His body, he believes, is now broken, and he worries he will never work again. Maggie's chief executive, Dame Laura Lee, says: "In my 26 years at the helm here and my ten years as a cancer nurse before that, I have never known people with cancer to face such difficulties."

These stories are all devastating on a personal scale but they also have huge repercussions nationally. Half a million additional people have dropped out of the workforce because of long-term illness since 2019. Long Covid is thought to account for a fifth, but many will be struggling with a cancer diagnosis.

Last week, a BBC investigation revealed that the number of patients waiting more than the 62-day target time for cancer therapy has reached more than 67,000 in England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, double the number in 2017-18. Only a lucky 5 per cent go private. The NHS languishes near the bottom of the developed nations' league table of cancer performance despite having some of the leading researchers. The poorest are hardest hit, with cancer deaths in the most deprived areas 53 per cent higher than in the richest parts of the country. Overall, the UK came 33rd of 41 developed nations for cancer mortality last year, behind Bulgaria, South Africa and Brazil, according to the OECD.

> Cancer deaths in the poorest areas are 53 per cent higher

Throwing more money at the NHS is not the answer. Yesterday the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggested that hospitals are carrying out fewer appointments and operations than before the pandemic, yet the NHS budget increased from £123.7 billion in 2019-20 to £151.8 billion in 2022-23. Peter Johnson, the NHS cancer chief, suggested in an interview with The Times last weekend that the problem was not funding so much as "looking after the people who work in the NHS, making sure the organisation is running as efficiently as possible".

Staff vacancies are at record levels, nurses are about to strike, refusing to conduct mammograms, smear tests, colonoscopies and skin biopsies, and many doctors are retiring early. The health secretary, Steve Barclay, needs to sort out pensions so that more oncologists are enticed to stay in the NHS. He needs to train more doctors and nurses, which would cut expensive agency staff, and promote seven-day working weeks to make better use of all equipment.

He should hand more responsibility to pharmacists to give GPs more time to catch cancer early, and ensure nurses don't strike, but without paying them anything like 17 per cent. He should also figure out why, for instance, nearly 80 per cent of cancer patients are treated within two months in Surrey Heartlands NHS Trust but only 43 per cent in Mid and South Essex.

Rishi Sunak was under pressure yesterday to disclose whether he has private healthcare, but far more important is whether the prime minister will hold true to his promise during the leadership contest to treat NHS reform as an emergency. Britain needs a healthy workforce to turn this country round, while those who are bravely living with cancer deserve the best chance, as Lauren pleads, "to get back to normal".

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to
letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Curse of illiteracy

Sir, Tomiwa Owolade's commentary on illiteracy is alarming ("Illiteracy is not just inconvenient, it's deadly", Nov 14). He postulates that the cost of functional illiteracy to the economy is £37 billion. In recent writings on education much has been made of the baccalaureate, vocational training and apprenticeships for secondary students as a pathway to boost the economy. I would suggest that focusing on literacy from a young age is equally demanding of attention: it can, in the long run, contribute to individuals' life chances, self-esteem and their subsequent engagement in what is being offered at secondary school. If illiteracy is not addressed in the early years of schooling, then much of what is offered at later stages will remain inaccessible.
Catherine Woodward
Ret'd local education authority assistant director of education, Chipping Campden, Glos

Sir, Tomiwa Owolade rightly laments the state of child and adult literacy in Britain. Years of poor childhood literacy have contributed to one in seven adults being functionally illiterate and therefore unable to read a medicine label or fill in a job application, basic necessities of a functioning life that *Times* readers would take for granted. The educational disruption caused by the pandemic has made matters worse.

There are highly effective initiatives to address the issue that need supporting. One-to-one reading, which is all too often lacking at home, is a key element in helping a child learn to read, yet this vital support is absent from almost all political agendas.

This week 11,630 children will receive personal reading support from a Schoolreaders volunteer in 690 primary schools across the country. It is a free service for schools, because of the selfless work of our volunteers. They do so because they get so much out of it, as do those they read to as well as schools, local communities and society at large.

It is sad that at a time when we need to find the most cost-efficient ways to solve society's problems, such a simple solution is so neglected.
Jane Whitbread
Chair of trustees, Schoolreaders

Corrections and clarifications

● An obituary of Sir Erich Reich contained errors (Register, Nov 12). His eldest daughter is named Rameet, not Renata; he came to England aged four, not three; his middle name was Arieh, not Areih; and his sister-in-law had three sons, not two. We apologise for the mistakes.

ipso. Regulated

The *Times* takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent by email to feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to Feedback, The Times, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Drive to teach modern languages in schools

Sir, All language teachers will be grateful for a schools minister who is committed to the value of languages ("Schools minister: we need to be speaking German", Nov 14; leading article, Nov 15). However, there is a strong argument that the problems with languages do not lie in secondary schools but in primary schools. In the latter provision is variable in quality, quantity and content and this makes a coherent transition to secondary schools almost impossible; secondary schools have to start all over again. Nor does primary language provision take any account of the increasing multilingualism of pupils or the provision of English as an additional language. Hence a better place to start turning the language tide could be in creating a primary language programme that, rather than teaching a single language, teaches how languages work and relate to each other, how they link with other subjects, and what they tell us about our diverse history and culture. Then pupils might be keen to learn languages — and value the ones they know — in secondary school.
John Claughton, former chief master, King Edward's School, Birmingham; **Graham Smith**, director, EAL Academy; **Dr Robert Sharples**, lecturer in language and education, Bristol University; **Steffan Griffiths**, head, Norwich School

Sir, It was indeed a mistake to scrap compulsory language GCSEs in 2004; they now seem to have become the preserve of independent schools. It is though welcome that the schools minister is considering the improvement of standards of language proficiency. Though modern languages are seen as niche subjects, the rigour of their study does not just develop the ability to communicate in another language, it hones accuracy in our own one — a skill that is much sought after in careers such as law and journalism — as well as cultivating a wider interest in other cultures and history.
Carole Bourne-Taylor
Associate professor and fellow in modern languages, Brasenose College, Oxford

Sir, The schools minister's drive to promote foreign languages is to be welcomed. Pupils would find the task altogether easier if they had learnt the structure of English first through being introduced to Latin. In the 1960s ten of us who had three years of Latin opted to do Classics after O-level, and were challenged to take O-level German from scratch in one term on one lesson a week. We all got "A" grades. There is no better basis for learning the German language.
John Davie
Former Oxford lecturer in Classics, Thurlestone, Devon

Sir, At long last, some common sense about languages. Yet two cheers only at this stage as the schools minister has not gone further than not ruling out reversing this "mistake". Is Nick Gibb afraid of showing too much enthusiasm for the study of modern foreign languages? In 2004, when such study stopped being compulsory up to the age of 16, it was clear that this policy was short-sighted and not in the country's best interest. Since then, Brexit has compounded the problem to a degree barely conceivable at the time. Now is the time for the minister to be courageous. Even in our brave (if fanciful) new world of global Britain, the way to win friends and influence people is still to speak their language.
John Dunston
Head, Leighton Park School 1996-2010; Oxford

Seven-day NHS

Sir, The lack of seven-day working is not the only reason for the poor efficiency of the NHS ("Unfinished Business", leading article, Nov 14; letters, Nov 15). During my 30 years of working for the NHS as full-time consultant vascular surgeon, the number of major operations that I was able to do each year on my weekday operating lists almost halved. The reasons for this included a lack of beds, delays to the start of the list while awaiting confirmation of bed availability, delays in getting patients to the operating theatre on time and a reluctance of theatre managers to send for the last patient after 3pm in the afternoon in case the list overran beyond 5pm. Owing to all these delays I estimate that more than half my time and that of my staff was spent battling to get patients to theatre and returning to the ward to apologise to upset patients when their operations were cancelled — which was often more than once. I offered a prize of a case of champagne if we ever managed to get a patient into theatre by the time that my list was supposed to begin at 8.30am. The prize was never claimed.
Professor Jonathan Beard
Consultant vascular surgeon, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Sir, We providers of 24-hour live-in care are available and prepared, at any time of day or night, to take people home from hospital. I have ample evidence that the discharge cannot be effected over the weekend because the required staff are not working at that time. I might also add that it is also tricky at half-term, especially during the skiing season.
Christina Sell
Managing director, Arbour Companions and Care

Immigration pact

Sir, Your leading article says that now is the time for greater deterrence with regard to refugees. But instead of giving the French £70 million a year, we could employ 1,000 more civil servants to process the applicants more quickly. If it were to cost an average of £40,000 for each employee then for £40 million we could rapidly clear the backlog of migrant applications plus any subsequent arrivals. The government could put all these extra staff on fixed-term contracts, thereby avoiding any long-term costs. This solution would also go some way towards re-establishing our reputation for quickly and humanely dealing with other human beings.
David Simpson
Darby Green, Hants

Truth about ENO

Sir, Huw van Steenis (Thunderer, Nov 14) overlooks ENO's patchy record of success in recent decades. He calls the company a cultural beacon. I have worked there and been in the audience many times over 30 years. There have been some shows that stick in the memory for the right reasons, but far too many that have been unreviveable, unshareable and, in the worst cases, unintelligible. One or two have been shameful. I know how hard opera is to put on but some of the artistic decisions made by successive managements and, by extension, the board have been bizarre. It is disingenuous to claim that these cuts came out of the blue.
Charles Johnston
London SE27

FIRST RESULTS - ELECTION NIGHT SCENES

FROM THE TIMES NOVEMBER 16, 1922

Election night and the fog, at least, has lifted. What more could a London crowd in November want? Long before results could be declared or even the polls closed, the great trek had started. Elaborate arrangements had been made by most of the great stores to enable the crowds — how large they would be was hardly anticipated — to learn the results as soon as they could be known. For the fortunate, the hotels and clubs; for the humbler, the streets. One Oxford Street store, whose illuminated party thermometer ornamented its classic front, was even thoughtful enough to provide a gramophone, but its music was almost drowned in the din of traffic. Even Trafalgar Square seemed scarcely able to hold the throngs which, North and South, East and West, poured into it. The basins, the lions and plinth of the Column were black with crowds, all faces turned towards the screen which would show the results. Had any election crowd been quite like this? That of 1918 was as nothing compared with it. One noticeable feature was the number of women. Many of the theatres and dancing clubs had remained open in order to announce the results, but most people in the West End were content to go into the streets and get the news. As the theatres finished their performances the audiences poured into the streets and by the time the announcements were in full swing it was impossible to get near the screens. Men and women in evening dress were jostling men in working attire, and political feeling was so mixed that all the results were received with a mixture of cheers and groans. The first that came through were in favour of the Unionist Party, and there was great cheering. But the succeeding figures tempered the enthusiasm, and when it was announced (by means of the screen) that Oxford City had fallen to a Liberal the minority was enabled to give tongue to its feelings. After that there were surprises that upset and elated both sides.

The London Association had arranged that election night should be a "festival", and it undoubtedly was. There was very little "mafeking", although there was bound to be a good deal of excitement. The scenes in the streets went on until the early morning.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Statue and liberty

Sir, Any plaque attached to the statue of Thomas Guy at Guy's Hospital should give the whole story, not just the source of his money from slavery, important though that is ("Statue of Guy's founder stays in place despite slave links", Nov 14). At the time Guy was criticised for devoting his wealth to philanthropy rather than to his own family. Objections to such gifts go back a long way and led to the mortmain statutes and their legal complications that helped to thwart JMW Turner's bequest for an almshouse for indigent artists, the money in that case going to cousins whom he did not wish to benefit. Guy's Hospital has made the right decision to keep the statue in its prominent position together with a plaque on the history. But the latter should be balanced and truly informative.
Dr Selby Whittingham
Director, Donor Watch

Citizenship tests

Sir, Emma Duncan hits the nail on the head ("The British citizenship test takes the cake", Nov 15). During my recent interview for French citizenship I was asked to explain the reasoning behind *Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité*. The answer is to facilitate the peaceful co-existence of French citizens, as stated in the publication provided to assist with preparation for the final oral test. Understanding and accepting the rules and expectations of any society is surely a prerequisite for harmonious co-existence. It has nothing to do with sporting success or celebrities.
Dominica Jewell
Bazoches au Houlme, France

Sir, Emma Duncan may like to know that people do wear flowers on St David's Day in Wales. On that day we wear our daffodil with pride, children wear the national costume to school and in Welsh medium schools eisteddfodau are held in which pupils compete in poetry, music, art and science; this includes a "crowning of the bard" ceremony for the best poem. I'm not sure, though, whether this contributes greatly to eligibility for British citizenship.
Joy Davies
Cardiff

Banana bonanza

Sir, On the subject of the banana drought of the Second World War (Feedback, Nov 12), at the age seven I was bewildered by the almost delirious excitement of the grown-ups in our village hall in Hertfordshire in 1944 when the first prize in a raffle was one banana. Mother whispered to me that it had been smuggled to England in a pilot's flying jacket. Her ticket was not a winner and I had to wait until I was at secondary school before I had my first taste, served in slices.
Christopher South
Little Chesterford, Essex

A cast too far

Sir, Your all-encompassing obituary of David English (Nov 14) contains the wonderful line that he made "an appearance alongside Laurence Olivier, Sean Connery, Robert Redford and Michael Caine in Richard Attenborough's 1977 epic war film *A Bridge Too Far*." I too was an extra in that film, as an unseen crewman in a Sherman tank crossing the bridge at Nijmegen. I shall adopt the same line from now on.
Malcolm Watson
Ryde, Isle of Wight

Daily Universal Register

Indonesia: Rishi Sunak will meet President Biden at the G20 summit in Bali.
UK: Sadiq Khan gives evidence to the London Assembly on Dame Cressida Dick.

Nature notes



The hills are alive with the sound of bellowing fallow deer. Raging with ramped testosterone levels and reeking of their own urine (in which they roll lavishly), fallow bucks are fighting and mating in their annual autumnal rut. Their bellowing groans sound strangely like roaring lions. It's thought that Britain's native fallow deer were displaced by the last ice age and that the species only returned in the 11th century when the Norman Barons reintroduced them from the Eastern Mediterranean. These deer soon spread into the forests where they became a sore temptation for the hungry peasantry. A law of 1198 introduced castration and blinding as a punishment for poaching deer.
JONATHAN TULLOCH

Birthdays today



Willie Carson, *pictured*, five-time British champion jockey (1972, 1973, 1978, 1980 and 1983), 80; **Lord (Waheed) Alli**, media entrepreneur, 58; **Dame Glenda Bailey**, editor-in-chief, Harper's Bazaar (2001-20), 64; **Michael Billington**, writer and arts critic, The Guardian (1971-2019), 83; **Prof Paul Boyle**, geographer, vice-chancellor, Swansea University, 58; **Rev Marcus Braybrooke**, joint president, World Congress of Faiths, 84; **Frank Bruno**, boxer, WBC heavyweight champion (1995), 61; **Sir Alan Budd**, economist, founder member, Monetary Policy Committee, Bank of England (1997-99), 85; **Prof Sir Anthony Cheetham**, materials scientist, 76; **Matt Dickinson**, chief sports writer and columnist for The Times, author, *1999: Manchester United, the Treble and All That* (2022), 54; **Very Rev John Dobson**, dean of Ripon, 58; **Bonnie Greer**, writer, *A Parallel Life* (2014), 74; **Maggie Gyllenhaal**, actress, *Crazy Heart* (2009), 45; **Hannah Hampton**, footballer, Aston Villa WFC and member of the Euro 2022-winning England national team, 22; **Lorraine Heggessey**, chairwoman, Lyric theatre (London), The Grierson Trust charity, controller, BBC1 (2000-05), 66; **Edward Higginbottom**, conductor, emeritus fellow, New College, Oxford, 76; **Christian Horner**, team principal, Red Bull Racing Formula One team, 49; **Jeremy Howe**, editor, *The Archers* (BBC Radio 4), the world's longest-running continuous drama, 66; **Diana Krall**, jazz singer and pianist, *Wallflower* (2015), 58; **Sanna Marin**, prime minister of Finland, 37; **Ralph Percy**, Duke of Northumberland, landowner, 66; **Griff Rhys Jones**, actor, *Alas Smith & Jones* (1984-88), 69; **Paul Scholes**, footballer, England (1997-2004) and Manchester United (1992-2011, 2012-13), co-owner of Salford City FC, 48; **Caroline Shenton**, archivist and writer, *National Treasures: Saving The Nation's Art in World War II* (2021), 57; **Waqar Younis**, cricketer, Pakistan (1989-2003), 51.

On this day

In **1959** Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical *The Sound of Music* opened on Broadway, where it ran for over 1,440 performances.

The last word

"Knowing what you can not do is more important than knowing what you can do. In fact, that's good taste." Lucille Ball, in Eleanor Harris's *The Real Story of Lucille Ball* (1954).

Talking to Xi

Britain may have been too open towards China in the past, but designating the country a 'threat' would be counter-productive

Britain's relationships with two of the great powers of today are, for the moment, settled: America is a close ally and Russia an enemy. Its relationship with China, by contrast, is in flux. That's why the meeting between Rishi Sunak and Xi Jinping, China's president, at the G20 meeting is important: it will set the tone for dealings between the two countries during Mr Sunak's premiership.

The diplomatic temperature has dropped dramatically since 2015, when David Cameron heralded a "golden era" in relations with China. Under Boris Johnson, Britain went from welcoming involvement in the country's telecoms network from Huawei, a Chinese company, to shutting it out of the more sensitive areas. His government designated China a "systemic competitor" to Britain as well as an "important partner", but provided no clue as to how that tension was to be resolved. Liz Truss, more hawkish still, was moving towards characterising China as a "threat".

When Mr Sunak was chancellor, he laid the groundwork for a shift towards a closer economic partnership between the two countries; but during the Conservative Party leadership campaign he hardened his stance. "For too long across the West and in Britain," he said, "politicians have rolled out the red carpet and turned a blind eye to China's nefarious activity and ambitions." His language has now softened. At the G20, he reverted to referring to China as a "systemic competitor".

Britain is not the only country that is feeling its way towards a new approach to China. President Biden has shifted from a doctrine known as "strategic ambiguity" to make it clear that America would defend Taiwan militarily. A similar shift is visible in Germany. Angela Merkel made 12 state visits to China during her 16 years in power, but the language of the coalition agreement between the parties that make up the current German government labels the relationship with China one of "systemic rivalry". Yet the door has not been slammed: Olaf Scholz, the new chancellor, has opened the way for China to buy three terminals in Hamburg's strategically important port.

China already has £135 billion worth of investments in Britain, including in some strategic and sensitive assets. Hutchison Whampoa, a Hong Kong company, owns Felixstowe port, and CGN, a nuclear company, has a 20 per cent stake in a proposed nuclear power station at Sizewell. To some extent, the private sector is already picking apart the economic bonds between China and the West. Alarmed by the vulnerability of their supply chains in the wake of Covid and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, companies are diversifying the sources of their inputs.

But the issue is not one for the private sector alone. Mr Sunak must decide where to draw the line between economic considerations and national security concerns. In some cases, the calculation is clear-cut. The government should reverse its decision to allow China to be involved in Britain's nuclear industry. It should also block the acquisition by a Chinese-owned company of Newport Wafer Fab, a silicon-chip factory, not because the company owns especially valuable intellectual property, but because Britain should have a stake, albeit a small one, in a business as strategically important as chip manufacturing.

There are a range of technologies, including satellite monitoring, digital currencies and internet standards, where this government needs to maintain a higher level of vigilance than previous ones. However, Mr Sunak should not allow himself to be dragged by hawks in his party, in a peremptory fashion, towards officially designating China a "threat". There are plenty of areas, such as climate change and Russia, over which Britain needs to work with China. Mr Sunak's meeting with Mr Xi is likely to foster co-operation. Aggressive language would not.

Slow Motion Murder

The government and police need to take a far tougher approach towards fraud

Fraud is one of the more traumatic forms of crime that any individual can suffer. Sadly, it is also by far the most common. In the year to June, there were an estimated 3.8 million incidents of fraud or attempted fraud against individuals in England and Wales, up 12 per cent in five years and now accounting for 41 per cent of all crimes against individuals. About 6.6 per cent of all people over 16 were victims of fraud or attempted fraud. The government's most recent estimate put the cost of fraud to individuals at £4.8 billion in 2015-16, with the cost to businesses far higher. Too often people are being robbed of their life savings, driving them into despair and even suicide. Writing in The Times earlier this year, Sir Tom Winsor, the former chief inspector of constabulary, called these crimes "murder in slow motion".

That makes it all the more shocking that so little progress has been made in tackling the scourge of fraud. A report this week by the National Audit Office on the Home Office's efforts to combat fraud makes sobering reading. It found that, while the number of frauds recorded by the police has risen by 50 per cent over the past five years, the number of cases resulting in a charge or summons has fallen from 6,402 in the year to March 2017 to just 4,816 in the year to last March. Less than 1 per cent of police personnel were involved in conducting fraud investigations in the year ending March 2020. Either police forces are not taking fraud seriously enough, or they lack the resources.

The answer is almost certainly a bit of both. As The Times reported in the summer, several police forces, including the Metropolitan Police, have been routinely screening out fraud cases "where the consequences of an investigation in terms of length of sentence or financial penalty are not considered to be cost effective". In other cases, police forces are reported to take into account the conduct of victims when deciding which cases to investigate. That amounts to victim blaming. In neither case does it take account of the risk — in fact, the certainty — that the emboldened fraudster will go on to inflict misery on other victims. The low risk of being caught or punished effectively gives fraudsters a green light to carry on.

This needs to change. Over the past five years, the government has launched multiple action plans, including a 2019 Economic Crime Plan, a 2021 Fraud Action Plan and in March this year a new fraud strategy, each with overlapping strategies and overseen by multiple agencies and boards. Yet the Home Office still does not collect adequate data to give it a complete picture of what is being spent on tackling fraud and how effectively money is being deployed. What is clear is that all aspects of the current strategy are failing.

A system-wide overhaul is needed. This should start with police forces, which need to focus far more resources on combating fraud. A robust replacement is needed for Action Fraud, the poorly performing hotline which led to many frauds going unrecorded. Part of the solution also lies in public information campaigns to boost awareness of fraud. The government also needs to work closely with the private sector to improve network security, potentially including a government-backed system of secure digital ID. Above all, the government must establish clear lines of responsibility and accountability to ensure that this devastating crime is finally treated with the seriousness that the public expects and demands.

I Wanna Hold Your Ham

Do not underestimate the surreal, serendipitous beauty of a misheard lyric

We all know the screen door slams, but what happens to Mary's dress? "This is wrong," Bruce Springsteen told the American talk show host Jimmy Fallon this week, as he studied the lyrics written on the original sleeve of his album *Born To Run*.

Here, in the first line of his hit *Thunder Road*, the dress "waves". Yet since 1975, many fans have been convinced he actually sings "sways". Which, it turns out, he always has.

Lyrical misheardings, known as mondegreens, are commonplace. Many, such as this one, are inconsequential. A sway, a wave, who cares? The British singer Frank Turner, who also performs *Thunder Road*, has admitted that he sometimes sings "swaves" just to cover all bases.

Something similar happened in early rehearsals for *Mamma Mia*, the Abba musical. In the chorus for *Waterloo*, the cast sang "How did it feel when you won the war?" right up until a band member came to watch, and told them it should actually be "I was defeated, you won the war." Yet, broadly, the meaning was intact.

Not always. In 2020 the earwax removal firm Earex commissioned a poll to find Britain's most misheard lyrics. Fully 10 per cent of those questioned, it emerged, had believed that The Police had a hit single about Sue Lawley. Others thought Freddie Mercury was "kicking a cat all over the place" in one song and "saving his life from this warm sausage tea" in another.

Similarly, the rock band Starship were believed to have "built this city on sausage rolls". Abba (again) were thought to be urging their audience to "feel the beat of the tangerine" while Elvis Presley was deemed "caught in a trout." Surrealists may feel that some of these lyrics are actually better than the originals. Remember, listening can be a creative process, too.

World

They terrorised us with electric shock torture in Kherson

Ukraine
Marc Bennetts
Kateryna Malofieieva Kherson

The Russian FSB agents came for Vitaly one day in August, putting a sack over his head before they took him to a torture centre on the outskirts of Kherson.

The building, a former Ukrainian police station, was used to interrogate prisoners by Russians who occupied the city for more than eight months.

People living nearby said the sound of screaming used to begin as darkness fell, and lasted all night. "They would bring elderly people in, pregnant women, anyone," Yelena, a shop assistant, said.

The agents strapped Vitaly, 65, to a chair and connected a wind-up electric generator to a pair of metal clamps and attached them to his groin, he said.

They ordered him to reveal the whereabouts of his son, a Ukrainian soldier. They accused him of being a member of Ukraine's territorial defence group, and of storing weapons. "Where is your son? Where are the weapons?" they shouted.

When he was unable to answer they turned on the power. The torture technique is known in Russian police slang as "a phone call to Putin".

"The pain was indescribable," Vitaly



Vitaly, 65, was tortured with electric clamps when the Russians learnt his son was a soldier

said. "It went in waves up my body."

Stories like this are still being played out across occupied Ukraine. President Zelensky said that investigators had uncovered more than 400 Russian war crimes in the Kherson region, adding to roughly 34,000 already documented by the prosecutor-general's office, which is building a case for genocide to take to the International Criminal Court.

In every area that Ukrainian troops have managed to liberate from the Russians, reporters and investigators have unearthed overwhelming evidence of rape, torture, murder of civilians and the forced deportation of hundreds of thousands of civilians, including children taken from their parents.

About 20,000 Russian troops withdrew safely from Kherson along with their commander, General Sergei Surovikin, according to western officials.

In the gloomy Kherson detention centre, the words of the Russian national anthem were written on white walls. Vitaly and seven cellmates were told by the agents to learn them by heart. The consequences for failure were severe. "They would beat us if we didn't repeat them correctly," Vitaly said, as he revisited the dank detention centre. In some rooms, chairs were clamped to the floor, makeshift handcuffs still attached to their frames.

Dymtro, a former prisoner, sat sobbing in another cell. "The animals," he shouted, as he rocked back and forth in the darkness. He said he had been brought there on a number of occasions, including for breaking the curfew. "They burnt me," he said, pulling up his top to reveal scarred flesh.

Ukrainian soldiers, now patrolling the building, threw out a portrait of Putin that the Russians had hung in the building. An empty garage contained piles of washing machines that the Russians were thought to have been planning to ship home before Kherson was liberated on Friday.

The fate of some prisoners is unknown. Yulia said she was searching for her cousin, who had been detained several weeks ago. "I was told they moved some prisoners," she said. "But I don't know where."

During a visit to Kherson on Monday Zelensky vowed to bring to justice the Russian forces responsible for war crimes in the city, including the deportation of children to Russia after separating them from their families. Kyiv has already identified 10,764 such children now in Russia or occupied territory, according to the human rights activist Oksana Filipishyna.

The Kremlin has altered its laws to make it easier for Russian parents to adopt Ukrainian children, many of whom have been orphaned by the same regime that will now drip-feed them a "patriotic" Russian education, removing references to their homeland's independence and history.

Volodomyr Sagaydak, the head of a children's home in Kherson, was determined not to let that happen to the 52 children in his care. When the war began he and a handful of staff moved into the home to protect his charges, aged 3 to 17. They withstood two months of shelling as Russian forces attacked Ukrainian positions.

When they had the chance, they moved the children into private houses to keep them out of the clutches of Russian forces. "After we had got them out, FSB agents came to the children's home to try and make me tell them where they kids were," Sagaydak said. "They threatened me and my family."

He refused to reveal their whereabouts because he feared they would be sent to Moscow, to be used as bargaining chips for Russian soldiers who had been taken captive. "Or they would be sent to Russian schools and taught to hate Ukraine," he said.

"In the future, they might have returned to our country with Russian weapons in their hands."

● Last night the White House asked Congress to approve $37.7 billion towards additional aid for Ukraine, with a government funding deadline approaching and the House expected to become Republican-controlled.



Nathan Lemekhani Nyirenda died while fighting for Russia in Ukraine

Zambian dies on battlefield

Jane Flanagan

Zambia's government is demanding to know how a nuclear engineering student it sponsored to study in Moscow ended up being killed in the Ukraine war.

Nathan Lemekhani Nyirenda, 23, is thought to have been deployed to fight for Russia after being jailed for drug possession, and then conscripted as part of a deal to commute prisoners' sentences if they join the Wagner Group's mercenary force.

A video circulated online purports to show Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of Wagner and an ally of President Putin, at a prison offering inmates their freedom in exchange for a six-month stint on the front line. Prigozhin told the inmates he was not fussy about the nature of their crimes as long as they were healthy, witnesses told reporters.

Stanley Kakubo, the Zambian foreign minister, said the student had been killed in September, but news of his death had emerged only last week.

Nyirenda was a scholarship student at the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute when he was jailed for nine years in 2020, at a medium-security prison on the edge of the capital.

His father, Edwin Nyirenda, told Reuters that at the time of his arrest his son had been working as a part-time courier when an unknown customer handed him a package containing drugs.

Nyirenda said he did not know who had conscripted his son from prison. He will travel to Moscow after receiving "a message from a man we do not know in Russia who told us that there was a will, which our son left, and we should travel to Russia".

Black mark for eco-activists in attack on Klimt



Climate campaigners have thrown synthetic oil at a case containing a painting by Gustav Klimt in a Vienna art gallery.

Activists from the Last Generation, which is based in Germany and Austria, sprayed the liquid over the glass case around Klimt's *Death and Life* in a protest against new oil and gas drilling, which they say is a "death sentence for humanity".

As other visitors in the Leopold Museum shouted at them, one of the protesters glued his hand to the casing. His companion shouted as he was bundled away by a security guard: "We have to act at last. The planet is dying. Stop this destruction. We are speeding into climate hell."

The protester who sprayed the oil, named as Florian Wagner, 30, has said it was a "non-toxic fake oil".

The painting, completed in 1916 during Klimt's "golden phase", is now being inspected by curators

Thanksgiving turkeys are for cuddling, not cooking

Will Pavia New York

For centuries Americans have sat down each November to a Thanksgiving turkey dinner. Now a farm in California is seeking to inaugurate a new tradition in which the spirit of fellowship is extended to the turkey — by cuddling rather than eating them.



The Gentle Barn, 40 miles north of Los Angeles, and two sister animal sanctuaries in Tennessee and Missouri are pioneering the initiative.

The idea of hugging a bird with sharp claws, a hooked beak and a wrinkly red wattle came to the founder of Gentle Barn after an encounter with a fowl she had rescued and raised.

Spring would follow Ellie Laks around chirping at her as she did her chores. "One day when she talked to me for a longer time, I put down my rake and sat on the ground," Laks, 54, told The Washington Post. "I sat there for a good 25 minutes and she closed her eyes and we had a good cuddle."

A visitor to Laks's sanctuary told the paper that a turkey "nuzzled up into my chest and bended into me, and I was struck by how soft she was, especially the top of her head".

Campaigner explores the wilderness in her trekking wheelchair
Page 35



Snuffling for truffles at risk as climate change strikes
Page 36

LETZTE GENERATION OESTERREICH/REUTERS



After one protester from the Last Generation sprayed Klimt's painting, another glued himself to the case

and several rooms were closed to the public. "We can only hope that the picture hasn't been damaged," the gallery said.

Hans-Peter Wipplinger, director of the Leopold, said: "The concerns of climate activists such as the Last Generation are justified, but attacking artworks is definitely the wrong way to achieve their goal. Museums are institutions of preservation and in that sense they are a textbook example of sustainability."

The stunt appears to have been primarily directed at the Austrian oil and gas conglomerate OMV, which had sponsored free entry to the museum and is contemplating a new gas project in Weinviertel.

Exxpress, a tabloid, described it as an "attack on our art and our identity" by "climate terrorists".

Inspired by British groups such as Just Stop Oil and Insulate Britain, the Last Generation's methods have been widely criticised in Germany and disowned by leaders of the German Green party, who say that such actions distract from serious debate about climate change.

Last month the Last Generation members poured instant mashed potato over Claude Monet's *Les Meules* at the Barberini art gallery in Potsdam, west of Berlin.

Two of their peers then blocked one of Berlin's main inner-city ring roads, delaying a fire brigade vehicle going to the rescue of a cyclist crushed by a concrete mixer. The cyclist later died.

Meloni sues mafia author over slur

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

The Italian writer Roberto Saviano has gone on trial for defamation after calling the new prime minister Giorgia Meloni "a bastard" after she demanded the sinking of charity rescue ships that save migrants in the Mediterranean.

Saviano, 43, who has been under police protection since he wrote his bestselling mafia exposé *Gomorrah* in 2006, now risks three years in jail after Meloni sued him for defamation.

"Personal judgments and opinions get singled out for legal action in Italy and Meloni's attack on me is a warning to all other writers and journalists," Saviano said.

After rising to fame for *Gomorrah*, which was turned into a film and TV series, Saviano has become a critic of the right's attempts to criminalise migrant charities. After seeing footage of a charity rescue at sea in 2020 during which a six-month-old baby drowned, he called Meloni and Matteo Salvini, the former interior minister, "bastards".

Meloni, then in opposition, sued, describing Saviano as a "serial hater". Now in power, she has stepped up the campaign against the charity ships, last week refusing entry to one vessel and forcing it to dock in France after it loitered in the Mediterranean for two weeks with 234 migrants on board.

Saviano is also being sued for defamation by Meloni's culture minister and Salvini, who is now infrastructure minister. Meloni has been legally represented by her junior justice minister.

"I think I have the record for being the most prosecuted journalist, personality and individual by this government," Saviano said outside court, adding: "Justice should not be a weapon used by politicians."

The case was adjourned until next month. A member of Meloni's legal team said they were deciding whether to drop the lawsuit.

Italian judges frequently accept defamation lawsuits stemming from colourful insults.

Pen International, an organisation that defends free speech, urged Meloni to abandon the case. "Criminal defamation lawsuits exhaust their victims. They rob them of their time, of their money, of their vital energy. Crucially, they are punitive and can lead to self-censorship and discourage the investigative journalism that is so necessary in a healthy and functioning democracy.

"As the prime minister, pursuing your case against him would send a chilling message to all journalists and writers . . . who may no longer dare to speak out for fear of reprisals."

Saviano said: "When I tell people abroad I risk three years in jail, they cannot believe it."

In Ron we trust, Republican big beasts tell Trump

United States
David Charter Washington

An influential group of conservative donors rained on Donald Trump's anticipated launch of a third presidential campaign by releasing polling data showing his rival Ron DeSantis ahead in key states.

The Club for Growth, a group of wealthy tax-cutting campaigners, suggested it would move its support to the Florida governor, whom it said was leading Trump in the early primary states of Iowa and New Hampshire. DeSantis, 44, was also put comfortably ahead in Florida, Trump's adopted home state, and in Georgia, the final Senate seat to be resolved in a run-off midterm vote next month.

Trump's "big announcement" at his Mar-a-Lago club and residence in Palm Beach, which was due last night, will come shortly after his acolyte Kari Lake, a former TV anchor, was defeated in her attempt to become governor of Arizona. In one of the most-watched races of the midterm elections, Lake lost to Katie Hobbs, a Democrat who stood up for the veracity of the 2020 elections against Lake's support for Trump's false claims of fraud.

Lake's defeat means that of the 16 candidates endorsed by Trump in governor, Senate and secretary of state contests in swing states that Biden won in 2020, only two — the Wisconsin senator Ron Johnson and Joe Lombardo, the Nevada governor-elect — have won their elections, with a run-off in Georgia to come.

Democrats held the Senate and performed better than expected in the House of Representatives, where Republicans were on track for a very slim majority with fewer than 20 races still being counted.

"Republicans need to be united behind a strong candidate and a platform that shows voters real solutions to beat Biden and the Democrats in 2024," said David McIntosh, president of the Club for Growth.

"Our polling shows that Republican primary voters recognise Trump's insults against Republicans as hollow and counterproductive, and it's taking a significant toll on his support."

Trump, 76, responded on Truth Social, attacking the Club for Growth as "Rinos" (Republicans in name only) for opposing his endorsement of JD Vance, the *Hillbilly Elegy* author, who won in Ohio, a state Trump won twice.

"They wanted to get together with me (were losing a lot), made peace, and we had an unblemished list of endorsement victories, but sadly, broke over JD Vance, who they didn't like, & I did," he wrote.

"They spent a fortune against him, but I endorsed JD, he did great, & WON big. Guess they now like Rinos!"

In another sign of Republican sentiment shifting on Trump, 86 elected officials in Utah released a letter encouraging DeSantis to consider running for president. "Our nation stands at a crossroads. We recognise the need for a strong leader to guide and direct our nation, someone with a proven track record, strong conservative foundation, and who understands the operations of state government," the letter said.



Donald Trump is trailing Ron DeSantis in polls

Republican race

Ron DeSantis has gained 11 points on Trump in the Iowa Republican caucus since August

	August	November
Ron DeSantis	37%	48%
Donald Trump	52%	37%
Undecided	12%	16%

WPAi Intelligence polls conducted on behalf of Club for Growth Action on August 7-10 and November 11-13, 2022

Top trio of advisers

Donald Trump is lining up a trio of trusted advisers to lead his presidential campaign, including a Florida veteran with an "acrimonious relationship" with Ron DeSantis, the state's governor and potential rival.

Susie Wiles is a political consultant who helped Trump to win Florida in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections and has led his political operation for the past 18 months. She is set to be joined by Chris LaCivita, a longtime Republican strategist running a fundraising committee allied to Trump, and Brian Jack, a senior political aide in the Trump White House for four years who now advises Kevin McCarthy, the House minority leader.

Wiles was described as "a polite yet steely grandmother" by The Washington Post and ran DeSantis's 2018 gubernatorial campaign before relations cooled. She was political director of Senator Marco Rubio's successful re-election campaign. LaCivita worked on this year's successful Senate re-election campaign for Ron Johnson in Wisconsin.

Kellyanne Conway, who managed Trump's 2016 campaign, is expected to be involved in some way but is unlikely to move to South Florida, where the campaign will be based.

China tries to save the language of its emperors

China
Didi Tang Beijing

During China's last imperial dynasty Manchu was the official language of 450 million people. Today, no more than 100 people speak it.

The potential loss of the language of the mighty Qing era (1644-1911) has prompted researchers to try a rescue using artificial intelligence.

"If we don't accelerate our pace and increase our efforts to protect it, the Manchu language in its original form will disappear completely when these elderly die," Wang Di, of the provincial academy of social sciences in Heilongjiang, wrote in The Border Economy and Culture, an an academic journal.

In a recent study, Wang and her team used artificial intelligence to identify and synthesise the sounds of the language. "We first analysed the morphological structure and syllables of Manchu and established annotation rules. Then, with the help of fieldwork, we built a language bank and studied the phonetic identification of Manchu and how to convert it into international phonetic symbols," she said. "Lastly, we applied the 'hidden Markov model' [a possibility-analysing tool] to synthesise short Manchu phrases in the hope to provide some reference for the rescue and preservation of the language."

The remaining Manchu population of about ten million has integrated with other ethnic groups, and borrowed lots of foreign expressions. Zhao Aping, a researcher, sounded the alarm in 2007. Researchers were particularly worried that China would not have enough speakers to decode the huge volumes of documents from the Qing dynasty.

PETER PARKS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Precious find Golden Canary, a 303-carat flawless yellow diamond cut from a giant 890-carat stone found by a Congolese girl in a pile of rubble discarded by miners, is expected to sell for at least $15 million at Sotheby's New York next month

Rioters turn on police over Xi lockdowns

Didi Tang

Demonstrators clashed with police in a rare violent protest against coronavirus lockdown rules in southern China yesterday, forcing local authorities to distribute more food to people confined at home.

Protesters in the southern city of Guangzhou removed barriers put up to contain them and overturned a police car as they revolted against China's restrictive "zero-Covid" policy. Videos on social media showed people remonstrating with hazmat-suited workers in the Haizhu district of the industrial city. The entire district, home to a large number of low-wage migrant workers, has been locked down since November 5, and some areas were closed earlier.

China reported 17,772 new Covid-19 infections yesterday, up from 16,072 the day before and the highest daily number since April.

Guangzhou, a city of 19 million, reported 5,124 infections, 95 per cent of them in Haizhu. Under the zero-Covid policy, regular mass testing is applied and entire districts can be locked down.

Health officials have said they will concentrate resources in the Haizhu district, but in a concession to the protesters the district government promised to "optimise" food distribution.



Protesters turned over a police car

Netanyahu rattles his defence chiefs

Israel
Anshel Pfeffer Jerusalem

Israel's defence establishment is concerned about attempts by Binyamin Netanyahu to give his allies from hard-right parties control over the army and police, which could stir further unrest in the Palestinian territories.

Bezalel Smotrich, co-leader of Religious Zionism, the second-largest party in the coalition that won a majority in Knesset elections two weeks ago, is demanding to be appointed defence minister in the new government. He was arrested in 2005 by Shin Bet, Israel's security service, on suspicion of planning arson attacks in protest against Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, but was not charged.

Netanyahu is also said to be considering a request by another highly controversial figure, the Jewish Power leader Itamar Ben-Gvir, to be made public security minister, which would put him in charge of the police. Ben-Gvir was once a member of a banned Jewish terrorist organisation and has been arrested and charged on several terrorism and violence-related charges.

Netanyahu has to take such requests seriously, partly in order to form a government and partly to ensure political backing for his attempts to stop the court cases that are still under way that accuse him of corruption.

However, the defence establishment, which has a record of pushing back against what it sees as overly aggressive demands from political ideologues, is hitting back. "The security chiefs are horrified by the idea of having to answer to Smotrich," one defence official told The Times.

Senior army officers are also aware of the importance in practical terms of the security relationship with the US, even as politicians attack interference by the Biden administration in Israeli affairs.

"It's not just the daily operational decisions the minister has to make, but the strategic relationship with the Pentagon that he's in charge of," the official said. "It's hard to see Smotrich, who is seen by the Americans as an extremist, maintaining that."



Bezalel Smotrich, who is seen by the US as an extremist, is demanding to be defence minister

Smotrich lives on a Jewish settlement in the West Bank, raising concerns over the prospect that he will be in charge of the army that conducts Israel's military occupation of the Palestinian territories. Another defence official said: "He won't be able to act responsibly as a minister when it comes to the interests of the settlers, his own people."

Netanyahu's bloc of right-wing and religious parties won 64 of 120 seats in the election. On Sunday he received a mandate from President Herzog to form a government after a majority of members of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, endorsed him. But he needs to sign coalition agreements with prospective partners before he can do so.

Netanyahu has yet to openly express his views on the potential appointments, although senior members in his Likud party acknowledge that he is trying to dissuade Smotrich from insisting on the job.

Another problematic appointment would be that of Aryeh Deri, leader of the ultra-Orthodox party Shas, who is demanding the job of finance minister. Deri has been convicted twice of fraud and financial crimes.

In 2000 he was sentenced to three years in prison for bribe-taking and more recently he was convicted, as part of a plea bargain, of tax evasion. If Deri is awarded the finance ministry a number of anti-corruption organisations have promised to challenge the appointment in the Supreme Court.

In response, Netanyahu's partners say they intend to propose in the coming Knesset winter session an "override clause", which would allow it to vote to countermand Supreme Court rulings.

Other measures they are demanding in return for their support include changes to Israel's citizenship law, allowing only those recognised as Jews by Orthodox religious strictures to emigrate to the country.

Death of reporter not your business, Israel warns US

David Charter Washington

Israel has condemned American "interference" in its internal affairs as it confirmed that the US had launched an investigation into the fatal shooting of the Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. The Palestinian-American reporter had covered the West Bank for two decades when she was killed in Jenin last May.

Israel has acknowledged that an Israeli bullet probably killed Abu Akleh, but said she could have been hit by Palestinian fire. It denied that she was targeted by Israeli soldiers while wearing a helmet and a protective vest marked "Press".

Tweeting in English, Benny Gantz, the Israeli defence minister, said: "The decision taken by the US Justice Department to conduct an investigation into the tragic passing of Shireen Abu Akleh, is a mistake. The IDF [Israel Defence Forces] has conducted a professional, independent investigation, which was presented to American officials … We will not co-operate with an external investigation, and will not enable intervention to internal investigations."

In a Hebrew version of the tweet he called the US investigation a "grave mistake".

It is not unusual for American authorities to investigate non-natural deaths or injuries of citizens abroad, but it is rare in an allied country. Witness accounts dispute Israeli military claims that there were militants near where Abu Akleh, 51, was standing and that Israeli troops had come under fire from her position.

The Israeli military has faced criticism over investigations of alleged wrongdoing by its troops, which seldom find them culpable. After an inquiry into Abu Akleh's death, the authorities decided not to launch a criminal investigation.



Shireen Abu Akleh, a Palestinian-American reporter, was shot dead

Twitter's still for stars, says Hollywood guru

United States
Keiran Southern Los Angeles

As Elon Musk's Twitter takeover deal neared completion, many expected an exodus of Hollywood celebrities who had predicted that the billionaire would allow hate to thrive on the platform.

However, although some famous faces have deleted their accounts, others have taken a "wait and see" approach. That could be, in part, because they have taken the advice of Wynter Mitchell Rohrbaugh, a digital strategist. "I don't recommend deleting an account," she told The Hollywood Reporter. "You're never going to get that audience back. I'm telling everyone to sit tight — for now."

Not everyone has taken that advice. Whoopi Goldberg, the Oscar-winning actress, deleted her account and said: "I'm going to get out, and if it settles down and I feel more comfortable maybe I'll come back."

The supermodel Gigi Hadid is no longer on the platform and said it was "becoming more and more of a cesspool of hate and bigotry".

Shortly after its launch in 2006, Twitter became a favourite with celebrities. In 2009 Ashton Kutcher, the actor, became the first user with one million followers. However, Twitter has steadily lost its attraction for celebrities, a trend Musk commented on in April.

Alongside a tweet showing the most-followed accounts, which included Justin Bieber, Katy Perry and Rihanna, Musk wrote: "Most of these 'top' accounts tweet rarely and post very little content. Is Twitter dying?"

Musk has been criticised for sacking half the workforce since he acquired Twitter. As uncertainty hangs over its future, Mitchell Rohrbaugh said celebrities should be building up their following on other websites.

Musk has sought to alleviate the concerns of some celebrity users. Stephen King, the author, has almost seven million followers but said he would leave the platform if forced to pay $20 to retain his blue verification tick.

Musk replied: "We need to pay the bills somehow! Twitter cannot rely entirely on advertisers. How about $8? I will explain the rationale in longer form before this is implemented. It is the only way to defeat the bots & trolls."

Sacked rebels have last word

Mark Sellman

Elon Musk has sacked three Twitter software engineers who challenged him publicly on the social media platform.

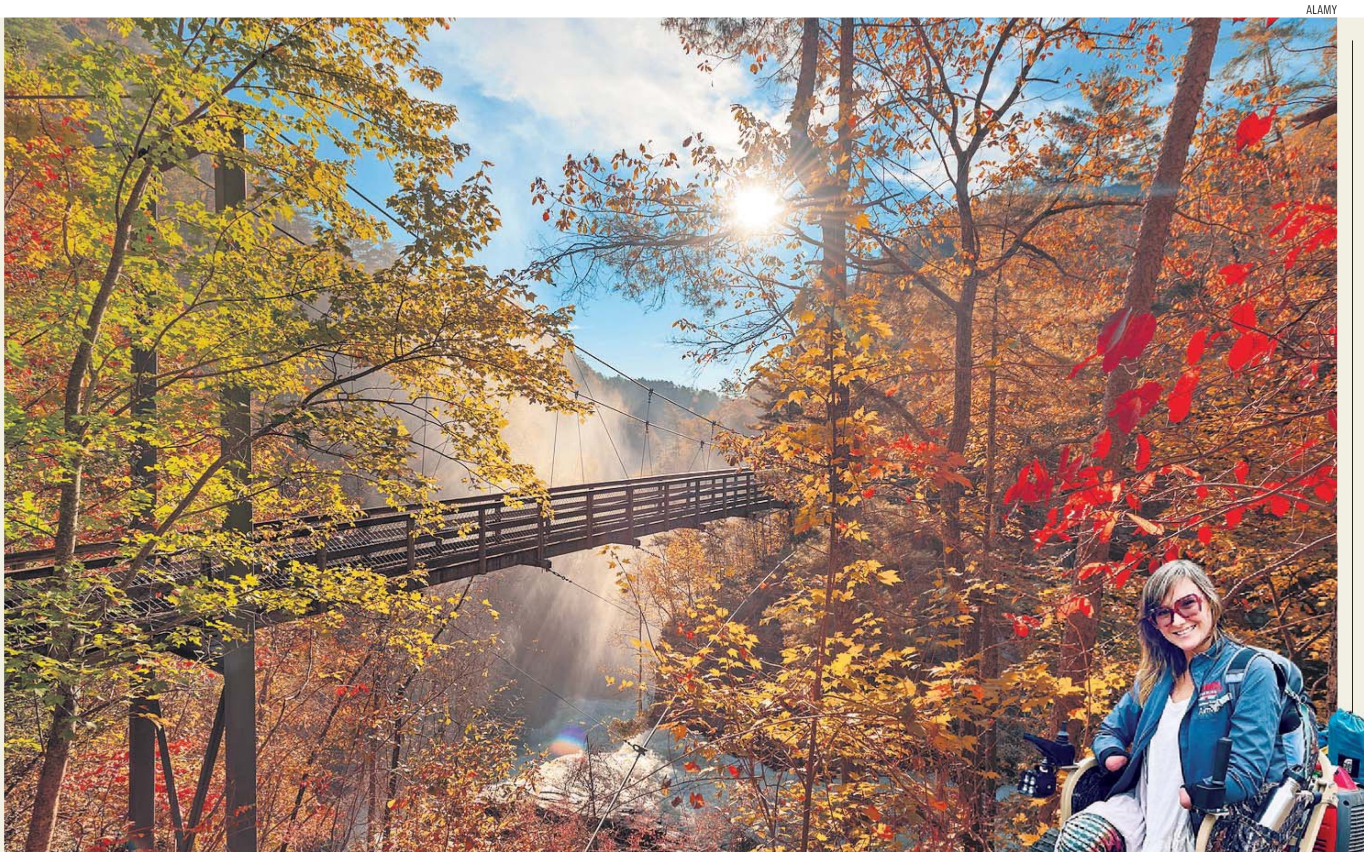
Eric Frohnhoefer berated the world's richest man in the aftermath of the sackings, and Ben Leib wrote online: "I can confidently say this man has no idea wtf he's talking about."

The third engineer, Sasha Solomon, went further still, signing off with the tweet: "Kiss my ass elon."

The exodus of skilled staff has led some people to question whether Twitter could become unstable, with anecdotal evidence from users that some functions are not working as they did before.

Musk is struggling to transform Twitter's business, having taken on $13 billion of debt to purchase the platform, with $1.2 billion in interest payments needed. It generates about $5 billion in revenue a year.

Powering people back to nature



ALAMY

Aimee Copeland Mercier hopes the fleet of all-terrain power wheelchairs will help disabled people to get back to nature

As she lay in a hospital bed a decade ago having lost both hands, a foot and a leg to a flesh-eating bacterial infection, Aimee Copeland Mercier feared her dreams of working in nature were over (Keiran Southern writes).

However, this month she helped to deliver a fleet of all-terrain power wheelchairs for use in state parks and other locations in Georgia. The Action Trackchair models can cross rocks, streams, sand, and fallen trees, and climb hills, thanks to their tank-like tracks. "It is a game changer," Copeland Mercier said. "It feels like being part of nature and lets you remember what really matters."

Copeland Mercier, 34, who lives in Asheville, North Carolina, was studying for a master's degree in ecotherapy — the practice of seeking improved physical or mental well-being from nature — when she was involved in a zip-line accident in 2012. She lost both hands, her right foot and her left leg to a subsequent infection. It was while she was recovering in hospital that she decided to put her education to use. "I woke up and all of my dreams of working in nature felt like they were crushed," she said.

"But the longer I lay in that hospital bed, just very depressed and surrounded by other very depressed people, the more I realised that this was the group of people that needed to be outside and connected to nature the most."

Copeland Mercier's initial plan was for a wheelchair-accessible nature park. After using a wheelchair herself, she realised that disabled people did not want a specialised area, but access to the same parks as others. "And that's when I realised that it was going to take technology to bridge that gap between nature and accessibility."

Copeland Mercier returned to studying, got a master's degree in social work and learnt how to run a non-profit organisation.

The Aimee Copeland Foundation was established in 2017. It worked with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to buy a fleet of chairs that can be rented across the state. The foundation raised $200,000 to buy the chairs at $12,500 each. Users must provide proof of their disability and do an online training course.

Copeland Mercier aims to provide the service across the US, then to take the project international. "I would love to see this all over the world," she said.

Judge saddles up for his knight job

Will Pavia New York

After complaints of disorder were raised in New York this year, attention turned to the judiciary and criminal justice reforms that were said to have led to the release of petty criminals who had been arrested dozens of times.

Now, in a shake up of the city's criminal bench, Eric Adams, the mayor, is expected to elevate a man who spends his spare time dressed as a medieval knight. Dale Fong-Frederick, 51, is a referee in a court that handles probate and estate cases. But by night and at weekends he is Sir Jibril al-Dakhil, pictured, proud member of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), whose members meet for feasts and to fight with sword and shield in suits of armour.

His expected elevation to the criminal court was trumpeted by the New York Post, which said, approvingly, that the city's prospective new judge was "ready to get medieval". He is one of three candidates picked by Adams to replace three judges on the court, including one who released a shoplifter who had been arrested a hundred times.



Fong-Frederick is described on the SCA website as a proud immigrant from Trinidad and Tobago, and an accomplished lawyer. He is married to "an amazing man" and "within the East Kingdom, he is the first openly gay knight and one of less than a dozen African-American knights".

In an interview last year he said he had been introduced to the SCA by a friend and colleague. "I laughed at him for about three years when he would tell stories about putting on medieval armour," Fong-Frederick said. One night the friend asked him to a meeting. "It just looked kind of ridiculous," he said.

Then the friend lent him his suit of armour and Fong-Frederick fought another "new knight", a young woman who "beat the tar out of me", he said. "I was hooked from that moment."

Walk a mile in old sandals of Apple boss for $220,000

Keiran Southern

Steve Jobs once said that to be successful in business you had to be like the Beatles — and it seems that extends to the band's footwear in the late 60s.

A pair of "well used" Birkenstocks that belonged to the Apple co-founder in the 1970s and 80s and were saved by his former house manager have sold at auction for almost $220,000.

"The cork and jute footbed retains the imprint of Steve Jobs's feet, which had been shaped after years of use," Julien's Auctions, in Beverly Hills, said. The shoes set a record for the highest price paid for a pair of sandals.

The sandals were expected to sell for $60,000, but the final price, with an accompanying non-fungible token (NFT) was $218,750, Julien's said. The identity of the buyer was not disclosed.

Martin Nolan, executive director of Julien's, told NPR that the sandals had been sold for $2,000 at an auction in 2016. Mark Sheff, Jobs's former house manager, said he had ended up with the footwear because Jobs was going to throw them away.

This was not the first time worn shoes had fetched an enormous price at auction. Last year alone, the Nike sneakers worn by Michael Jordan during his rookie season with the Chicago Bulls sold for almost $1.5 million and a pair of Nike shoes worn by Kanye West at the 2008 Grammy Awards went for $1.8 million.

Beautician butchered her partner 'to escape abuse'

France
Charles Bremner Paris

A beautician from Normandy sliced her partner's neck open with a butcher's chopper, dismembered his body with the help of a client and threw the parts into the Seine, a court in Rouen has been told.

In a trial that has exposed horror film behaviour by ordinary suburbanites, Céline Vasselin, 35, admitted killing Slimane Amara, the father of her seven-year-old son, with the help of Jessica Adam, 39, but claims that she was trying to escape his violent control over her life.

The prosecution contests her account of abuse. The trial comes after several recent cases of women seeking judicial leniency for killing violent partners.

Vasselin had already made an unsuccessful attempt to kill Amara, 45, when she recruited Adam, who had seen bruises on her legs at her beauty shop in Le Petit-Quevilly, a town on Rouen's southern outskirts. On a November evening in 2018, Vasselin knocked out Amara by putting sleeping pills in his apéritif at the family's home. She covered his head with a towel before applying the butcher's blade. When he screamed, Vasselin handed the chopper to Adam, who delivered the fatal blow. The pair, both mothers, cut the body into pieces and burnt the face with acid to avoid identification. They threw the remains into the Seine and Eure rivers. Body parts washed up within days, although the head has not been found.

Police arrested the women within a week. They both confessed. Isabelle Carrie, a friend of Vasselin, is also on trial for failing to intervene after hearing of the murder plan. "I didn't imagine she would have been capable," Carrie told the court.

Between bouts of tears, Vasselin told the court at the opening of her trial: "Yes, I admit these actions." She had been the victim of verbal and physical violence by Amara almost every day in the latter years of their decade together, she told the investigating judges. Sandra Gosselin, her lawyer, said Amara threatened her if she sought a separation. "She was sincerely marked by fear of her companion. His power over her was real," Gosselin said.

The prosecution says there was no proof of violent behaviour by Amara and noted that Vasselin had never laid any complaint with the authorities over his conduct. She and Adam face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

GABRIEL MONNET/EPA



Renewed energy A redundant satellite dish in Leuk, Switzerland, is ideal for solar panels as it can turn to face the sun

TEDDINGTON
RIVERSIDE

BEGIN YOUR NEW
CHAPTER

Teddington Riverside comprises of 1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments, and 4 bedroom townhouses, all of which have been designed with you in mind. Nestled amongst 4.5 acres of landscaped gardens, these homes provide a blissful escape from the hustle-and-bustle of daily life.

All homes are ready to move into now | Prices from £610,000



MARKETING SUITE OPEN DAILY
BOOK AN APPOINTMENT TODAY | 0207 3490 091
TEDDINGTON, RICHMOND UPON THAMES
WWW.TEDDINGTONRIVERSIDE.CO.UK

City Developments Limited

Truffles could shuffle off the menu as climate warms

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

Europe's precious harvest of truffles is at risk of vanishing because of climate change, experts say, as humid woodlands that host the pungent tuber suffer from droughts and heatwaves.

After record heat in northern Italy this summer, truffle hunters and their dogs have found fewer, smaller specimens, with prices for sought-after white truffles soaring to €600 a kilogram, 50 per cent above the average.

"When the rainfall goes down, prices go up, and last year was difficult too," Mauro Carbone, head of Italy's national centre for truffle studies, said. "We need to start thinking about pushing the season back from October to November and climate change is driving this."

Growing close to the roots of pines, oaks and cork trees and hunted by highly trained dogs, often in secret locations known only to their owners, truffles give off a unique flavour when shaved over steaming risotto.

But the expensive ingredient is getting rarer and even pricier as a new study reveals the shortfall seen in Italy is happening across Europe.

Researchers from the University of Konstanz in Germany, who studied the summer truffle in southwest Germany and Switzerland over eight years, found that production was acutely sensitive to heat — dropping by 22 per cent for every degree centigrade rise above the average.

Temperature rises of 3C above the average were enough to wipe out production altogether, they found. "Increasing summer drought extremes are therefore likely to reduce fruiting among summer truffle populations throughout central Europe," researchers wrote, adding that heatwaves previously seen in Europe once a century were now expected twice a decade.

In France, annual production of the black Périgord truffle has fallen from more than 1,500 tonnes in the 19th century to between 10 and 50 tonnes now.



White truffles are now fetching €600 a kilo, 50 per cent more than average

Speaking yesterday from woodland in Piedmont in northern Italy, where he was out truffle hunting with his dog Dora, Ezio Costa, 75, said his yield was down 40 per cent this year.

"The last normal year we had was 2019, but now, where you once found 50g truffles, 10g is the average," said Costa, who has been hunting truffles since he was 14.

Carbone said the only way to keep truffle hunting alive was to improve the retention of rainwater and irrigation. However, Piero Botto, 68, a truffle hunter near Asti, was doubtful. "Irrigating a field is one thing, but a wood?" he said.

Another, unexpected, consequence of the dry year is that hunters are making noise as they walk through leaves, which are usually wet underfoot. "When you are trying to get to a secret place for truffles only you know, that sound gives away your location to rival hunters," Botto said.

Snow's a no show at French resorts

France
Ben Clatworthy

French ski resorts are delaying their opening after unseasonably warm autumn weather.

Val d'Isère is the latest resort to postpone its opening, scheduled for November 26, by a week because of the lack of snow.

Even Val Thorens, Europe's highest resort, at 2,300m, is not opening as planned on Saturday. Instead it will open a week later.

Resort bosses are watching the forecasts, eager for natural snow and for a drop in temperatures to allow the production of artificial snow.

Fraser Wilkin, of Weathertoski, a snow-reporting website, said: "There are some early indications that the Alps could see some heavier and more widespread snowfall next week, but this is still too far off to be certain."

Val Thorens said it would refund holidaymakers who had booked trips for the opening weekend.

A spokeswoman said: "Despite our best efforts to start the season on November 19, the warm autumn weather does not allow us to open the ski resort and its slopes in a quality way. The snow cover on the summits is satisfactory but it's not possible to ski to the village at present."

The warm weather has also disrupted the start of the alpine skiing World Cup season, with seven out of the eight races scheduled so far having been called off.

The Swiss resort of Verbier opened a handful of runs last Friday, with weekend openings planned until the season proper begins on December 4.

Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

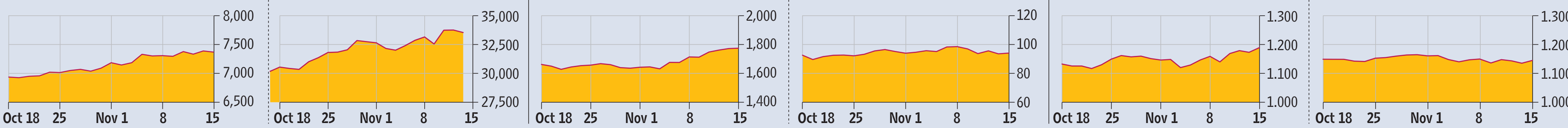
FTSE 100 7,369.44 (-15.73)▼ | **Dow Jones** 33,536.70 (-211.16)▼

COMMODITIES

Gold $1,772.09 (+1.82)▲ | **Brent crude** (6pm) $93.80 (+0.53)▲

CURRENCIES

£/$ $1.1894 (+0.0168)▲ | **£/€** €1.1462 (+0.0116)▲



Pound hits three-month high against dollar as US inflation cools

Tom Howard

The pound rose above $1.20 for the first time in almost three months yesterday as expectations grow that inflation in the US has peaked.

American producer prices rose by 0.2 per cent in October, half of what economists forecast. The annual rate of wholesale inflation fell sharply to 8 per cent, down from 8.5 per cent in September. Financial markets took the data to mean the US Federal Reserve may soon slow its aggressive interest rate rises which have weighed heavily on stock prices in recent months.

Last week, the expectation had been that the Fed would keep on lifting rates above 5 per cent, but that has now dropped back to a peak of 4.9 per cent early next summer.

The likelihood that US policymakers will raise interest rates by 50 basis points, as opposed to the 75 basis points they have previously gone for, at their next meeting in December has climbed to 91 per cent from 71.5 per cent a few days ago.

The cooling inflation data took steam out of the dollar which, until recently, has rallied strongly this year.

Sterling improved by 1.2 per cent to $1.1902 at the close of trading in London. Earlier in the session, the pound had briefly risen to $1.2027 for the first time since the middle of August. Other currencies, including the euro and the Japanese yen, also strengthened against the dollar.

The latest rally caps a sharp turnaround in the fortunes of sterling, which only six weeks ago, after the mini-budget, had fallen to a record low of $1.035.

David Stritch, a currency analyst at Caxton, said the pound may give up some of its recent gains tomorrow, when he expects Jeremy Hunt's autumn statement to "force the hesitant [Bank of England governor] Andrew Bailey into a lower rate hike in December" than the market is expecting.

The prospect of a slowdown in interest rate rises lifted markets around the world. However, sterling's rally meant that London's blue chips missed out.

The FTSE 100, whose constituents make about three-quarters of their earnings overseas, fell 15.73 points, or 0.2 per cent, to 7,369.44.

Collapse of FTX leaves 1m creditors

Scale of crypto crisis revealed in court documents

Helen Cahill, Katie Prescott

The collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX owes money to a possible one million creditors, according to court filings.

The failed exchange filed for bankruptcy last week after it faced billions in customer withdrawals and its rival Binance backed out of a rescue deal because FTX's problems were beyond its "ability to help".

Bankruptcy filings in the US revealed that FTX faces claims from 100,000 creditors but this number could increase substantially as the insolvency progresses. The court documents state: "There could be more than one million creditors in these Chapter 11 cases."

FTX was launched by Sam Bankman-Fried in 2019 and rapidly became one of the biggest players in the industry with a valuation of $32 billion.

Bankman-Fried, 30, agreed to step down as chief executive last week after the business was hit by about $6 billion in asset withdrawals. He has been replaced by John Ray, the turnaround specialist, who is known for working on the bankruptcy of Enron. The Wall Street Journal reported yesterday that Bankman-Fried was trying to raise fresh funds for his stricken exchange.

US prosecutors and other authorities are investigating the company. The first FTX bankruptcy documents filed in the US confirmed the case had attracted the attention of the US Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Bankman-Fried faces a possible trip to the US for questioning over the FTX collapse, which comes amid a wider crisis in the industry that picked up pace this year.

Confidence in crypto markets was rattled when a number of big projects collapsed. Terra, Three Arrows Capital, Celsius Network and Voyager all filed for bankruptcy protection.

Rival cryptocurrency exchange Binance announced plans to rescue FTX from a liquidity crisis on Tuesday last week but it quickly pulled out of the deal because its rival's problems were "beyond our control or ability to help".

Bankruptcy documents published yesterday stated: "The events that have befallen FTX over the past week are unprecedented. Barely more than a week ago, FTX, led by its co-founder Sam Bankman-Fried, was regarded as one of the most respected and innovative companies in the crypto industry.

"FTX faced a severe liquidity crisis that necessitated the filing of these cases on an emergency basis last Friday. Questions arose about Mr Bankman-Fried's leadership and the handling of FTX's complex array of assets and businesses under his direction."

Regulators in the Bahamas have appointed liquidators to take over operations at a key division of FTX, which moved its headquarters to the country last year. The Securities Commission of the Bahamas appointed PwC to handle the unwinding of FTX Digital Markets.

Britain's financial regulator warned in September that FTX may be operating in its jurisdiction without

Continued on page 38

JOE SCARNICI/GETTY IMAGES



Moët demand bubbling over

Moët Hennessy, the drinks group backed by Roger Federer, said it was running short of champagne supplies owing to a sharp rise in demand. Pages 38-39

Bill 'threatens independence of regulators'

Ben Martin Banking Editor

The City grandee who led the board of the Financial Conduct Authority has stepped up his criticism of a government plan to give ministers the power to override regulators' decisions.

Writing in The Times today, Charles Randell, who stood down as chairman at the end of May after four years, says government "should leave the independent institutions which deliver financial regulation to do their job".

Randell, 64, cautioned in May, just before he left, that the plans could create "a strong channel" for lobbyists from the financial services industry.

The government faces resistance from the Bank of England and the FCA over its proposal for a "public interest intervention power" in the Financial Services and Markets Bill, working its way through parliament. It has yet to set out the details of its plan, which would allow ministers to direct regulators to make, change or revoke rules.

Randell, who was previously a top City lawyer, said the government was proposing that "ministers should be delegated power by parliament to step in when they do not like rules that a regulator is about to make, and instead impose rules of their own choosing.

"No details have been given, but it is unlikely that there would be much democratic accountability: the House of Commons has not rejected a single delegated measure in over 40 years".

The bill is meant to ensure that firms act in the interest of everyone in the UK, he said. It should "not now become a mechanism for vested interests to lobby ministers to circumvent the processes of public consultation, analysis and democratic accountability which regulators rightly have to follow".

Randell spent more than 30 years at Slaughter & May, a law firm, where he advised the government on the banking bailouts during the 2007-09 financial crisis. He also sat on the Bank's prudential regulation committee.

We must avoid charter for vested interests, Charles Randell, page 45

Need to know

1 The collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX owes money to a possible one million creditors, according to court filings. FTX so far faces claims from 100,000 creditors but this number could increase substantially as the insolvency progresses. Page 37

2 The pound rose above $1.20 for the first time in almost three months as expectations grow that inflation in the US has peaked. American producer prices rose 0.2 per cent in October, half what economists forecast. The annual rate of wholesale inflation dropped to 8 per cent, down from 8.5 per cent in September. Page 37

3 Charles Randell, former chairman of the Financial Conduct Authority, has stepped up his criticism of a plan to give ministers the power to override regulators. He says they "should leave the independent institutions which deliver financial regulation to do their job". Page 37

4 Land Securities swung to a loss in the first half as soaring interest rates triggered a fall in the value of its multibillion-pound property portfolio. Its properties fell in value by 2.9 per cent to £10.9 billion between April and September.

5 Consumers are defying the economic gloom and drinking Moët Hennessy's champagne cellars dry. Philippe Schaus, chief executive, said the drinks group was running low on some supplies of bubbly. Its brands include Dom Pérignon, Moët & Chandon, Krug and Veuve Clicquot.

6 Real wages fell again in the face of the highest inflation for 40 years as unemployment remained its lowest in decades. In the three months to September the growth in average weekly pay, including bonuses, fell by 2.6 per cent compared with the previous year adjusted for inflation. Page 40

7 Smokers will not quit until they are satisfied with alternative products, Stefan Bomhard, chief executive of Bristol-based Imperial Brands, has said in response to calls from Sir Chris Whitty the government's chief medical adviser for the industry to be "destroyed". Page 42

8 BAE Systems, the defence company, said that it was on course for a "very strong year" with £28 billion in new orders, including £10 billion since the half-year alone. It said the government had confirmed that the Royal Navy will take another five Type 26 frigates on top of the three that are under construction. Page 43

9 The International Energy Agency has sounded the alarm over "exceptionally tight" diesel markets and record high prices that are fuelling inflation. Diesel prices in October were 70 per cent higher than a year ago, the agency said. Page 44

10 Vodafone has cut its annual cash flow and profit forecasts amid higher energy costs, rising inflation and weaker trading in parts of Europe. The headwinds prompted the telecoms group to set a new cost-cutting target of more than €1 billion. Page 45

Landsec swings to a loss as rate rises hit property valuations

Tom Howard

Land Securities swung to a loss in the first half of its financial year as soaring interest rates triggered a sharp decline in the value of its multibillion-pound property portfolio.

Its properties, which includes the Bluewater shopping mall in Kent and the Piccadilly Lights in central London, fell in value by 2.9 per cent to £10.9 billion between April and September.

Mark Allan, chief executive, said that he expected further valuation falls over the coming months, stating that the "value adjustment will likely continue a little while from here".

His comments will fuel concerns that the UK commercial property market is entering a downturn. Analysts at Goldman Sachs last month predicted that, come summer 2024, values of offices, shops and warehouses in the UK would be 15 per cent to 20 per cent lower than where they were this summer.

Due to the fall in the value of its portfolio, Land Securities fell to a loss of £192 million in the six months to the end of September, after a profit of £275 million in the same period of 2021. Net tangible assets dipped 5 per cent to £10.10 per share from £10.63. Analysts expected a figure of closer to £10.53.

The shares continue to trade at a sharp discount to that net asset value and the stock retreated another 7¾p, or 1.3 per cent, to close at 616p.

Land Securities, which styles itself as Landsec, owns an £11 billion portfolio of shopping centres, offices and leisure complexes around the country.

Its shares have lost a fifth of their value this year as the rise in interest rates has dented the value of its properties, while the gloomy economic outlook has raised concerns about demand from tenants. However, it remains a constituent of the FTSE 100 with a market valuation of £4.6 billion.

Landsec's central London offices, about 60 per cent of its total assets, suffered the biggest writedowns in the first half, with values down 4.4 per cent over the six months. Office blocks in the City of London, where vacancy rates remain the highest, fared particularly poorly, dropping almost 10 per cent.

That was despite a "strong leasing" performance. In the first half, Landsec signed £41 million of new lettings at its central London offices at rents 3 per cent ahead of previous assumptions.

However, rental growth has been unable to offset the impact of higher interest rates. They have reduced the appeal of property for investors who can buy gilts with similar returns but less risk.

"In the mathematical fight between rental values and yields, the latter will always win out, especially at such low absolute levels," John Cahill, a real estate analyst at Stifel, said.

One of the areas Landsec has been trying to move into is mixed-use urban neighbourhoods, although wider yields saw their values slide by 4.8 per cent.

There was some better news for Landsec's shopping malls, which rose in value by 0.4 per cent after big falls in the past five years.

"The surge in online sales during the pandemic, which everyone took to be a permanent five-year leap forward in terms of online sales penetration, turned out to be much more temporary. As a result, we continue to see brands invest in refocusing their efforts on fewer, bigger, better stores," Allan said.

That trend had driven a "tangible increase in demand for space" at Landsec's shopping centres. Over the first half, £27 million of new retail leases were signed at rents on average 12 per cent ahead of forecasts. Close to 95 per cent of its shops are now occupied, up from 93 per cent in March.

Allan said that across all property sectors the "fundamental decision driver" for tenants was now the quality of the space available.

"From an occupational demand standpoint, there is an increasing recognition amongst [tenants], whether that's London offices or retail, that the quality of space is pivotal to attracting key talent or customers," he said.

Canary Wharf to open 'WeWork for laboratories'

A "WeWork for laboratories" will open next year in Canary Wharf as part of the east London business district's efforts to grow its reputation as a life sciences hub (Tom Howard writes).

Canary Wharf Group, along with Kadans, the Dutch life sciences developer, is turning two floors of what were offices at 20 Water Street into 38,000 sq ft of flexible, fully serviced wet labs.

One of the barriers to entry for life sciences start-ups is having access to equipment without having to rent out an entire laboratory. At 20 Water Street, smaller companies will be able to lease a single lab bench on a monthly basis, while mature businesses can take more than 5,000 sq ft on longer leases.

"The pace at which we have established this new innovation facility, while attracting leading health and life sciences companies to Canary Wharf, further demonstrate the appeal of Canary Wharf as the location for a world-class life sciences hub in the UK," Richard Archer, managing director of offices at Canary Wharf Group, said.

James Sheppard, managing director of Kadans, said the vision was "to make Canary Wharf the go-to destination for health and life sciences organisations". It is expected the new space will be open by May.

Before the pandemic, 120,000 bankers and other people working in financial services would commute into Canary Wharf each day. Shobi Khan, chief executive of Canary Wharf Group, has been trying to reposition the area as a centre not only for financial services but also for technology and life sciences firms.

This year he unveiled plans to build Europe's largest commercial laboratory on eight acres of land at a cost of £500 million. Kadans has also partnered with Canary Wharf Group on that project, which is expected to complete in 2026.

Demand for laboratory space has surged in the past couple of years. With a lack of high-quality lab space available in the UK, companies are desperate for more to be built. The supply-demand imbalance has led to rents rising sharply, which is what has piqued the interest of investors.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

FTX owes one million creditors

authorisation. The Financial Conduct Authority said customers "should be wary" of dealing with the exchange. It has estimated that 2.3 million adults in the UK held cryptocurrencies last year, with an average holding value of £300.

The upheaval at FTX has led to renewed calls for regulation of the sector. Andrew Griffith, economic secretary to the Treasury, recently tabled an amendment to the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 that sets the stage for bringing cryptocurrencies under the purview of the City watchdog. Baroness Morgan, former chairwoman of the Treasury select committee, said: "We need a clear steer about how crypto is regulated."

Alphabet soup, Katie Prescott, page 41

Behind the story

Chapter 11 is a form of bankruptcy in the United States often referred to as a reorganisation. Companies and individuals can use these legal proceedings to sort out their financial affairs and restructure their debts (Callum Jones writes).

Prominent examples of recent years include Lehman Brothers in 2008 — the largest bankruptcy in American history — and General Motors in 2009. Unlike Chapter 7 bankruptcies, which pave the way for the wind-down of companies and sale of their assets, Chapter 11 is designed to facilitate negotiations over debt. Many struggling businesses use it to buy themselves more time by altering their payment obligations.

A petition for reorganisation can be voluntary and filed by the debtor, who owes the funds, or involuntary and filed by creditors who are owed them. The debtor typically remains "in possession", retaining the power and duties of a trustee. The business can continue to operate, too, and even — provided it obtains court approval — borrow additional money.

Once a petition is accepted by the court, however, creditors are required to end attempts to collect what they are owed until the case is settled. The company also has to provide detailed information surrounding its debts, income, assets and costs.

A reorganisation plan is drawn up for the business, which lays out how much it would pay its creditors. The debtor then faces questions under oath from creditors at what is known as a Section 341 meeting. If its creditors dislike the plan, they can propose sweeping changes over the way forward.

Whatever emerges from this process is then put to a vote. Provided a plan obtains the support of two thirds of a company's creditors, it is approved by the court.



A Moet vineyard in Champagne. The

Corks pop as champagne sales take off

Dominic Walsh

Affluent consumers are defying the economic gloom and drinking Moët Hennessy's champagne cellars dry, creating what many would call a decidedly first world problem.

Philippe Schaus, chief executive, said the French drinks group was running low on supplies of some of its top bubbly — its brands include Dom Pérignon, Moët & Chandon, Krug and Veuve Clicquot. In an interview with Bloom-

ALAMY



luxury goods firm is referring to the release of pent-up demand for champagne as the pandemic eases as "the roaring 20s"

berg Television at the New Economy Forum in Singapore, Schaus said that the recent period was being referred to internally as "the roaring 20s", such was the level of consumer spending. "We are running out of stock," he said.

Last month, Moët Hennessy, the wine and spirits division of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, recorded revenue growth of 23 per cent in the first nine months, an organic or underlying increase of 14 per cent.

LVMH said its champagne houses had delivered "excellent momentum, which increased pressure on supplies". It said that growth was particularly strong in Europe, the US and Japan.

Majestic Wine confirmed that champagne was in strong demand. "Throughout 2022 we've seen stronger-than-expected sales of champagne, growing like-for-like against last year, fuelled largely by the return of weddings and events," said a spokesman. "We're anticipating this to continue with office parties and hopes for a proper Christmas. While clearly budgets remain tight, there's certainly evidence that some customers are using wine as their chosen luxury."

After an initial slump in the early part of the pandemic, the biggest luxury goods groups have gained from the release of pent-up demand, reporting a frenzy of spending on luxury watches, leather handbags and the finest champagnes and cognacs.

LVMH last month beat forecasts at four of its five main units as it lifted third-quarter revenues by 19 per cent on an organic basis, while Hermès International's comparable growth reached 24 per cent, despite some price increases to cover inflation.

So far, the big luxury goods groups are finding their wealthy customers are continuing to splash the cash. The big question is for how long as inflationary pressures force prices up, although some experts remain optimistic.

According to the latest Bain & Company report with Altagamma, the Italian luxury goods manufacturers' industry association, the global luxury goods industry overall is projected to achieve €1.4 trillion in sales revenue this year, up 21 per cent on 2021 at current exchange rates, with continued growth expected up to 2030.

Moët's Schaus, 59, said that inflation remained a major uncertainty, while rising raw material costs may mean having to raise prices on some products by high single-digit or low double-digit percentages.

The good news is that supplies of Moët Hennessy's champagnes are set to be replenished in the new year, although at what price remains unclear.

Goldman 'paid $12m' over sexism claim

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

Goldman Sachs is said to have paid more than $12 million to a departing partner in a deal that kept secret her allegations of sexism.

A senior executive at the Wall Street investment bank was among those accused of making vulgar and dismissive comments, Bloomberg News said.

The complaint included a claim that a senior executive bragged to a group of male colleagues that he was probably the only one who had received oral sex the previous night, according to Bloomberg, which cited sources with knowledge of the matter. Kathy Ruemmler, general counsel at Goldman, said: "Bloomberg's reporting contains factual errors, and we dispute this story."

The bank is reported to have settled with the unnamed partner about two years ago and her complaint is said to have spanned beyond the single allegation, attempting to paint a picture of a broader, institutional issue inside Goldman. Most of the incidents described occurred in 2018 and 2019.

Since David Solomon, 60, became chief executive in 2018, the firm has sought to focus on improving diversity within its ranks. "I've tried to make it an enormous priority to provide leadership for the organisation to move us forward, and to really increase the diversity of the organisation," he told Fortune in 2019. Goldman said last week its 2022 class of 80 new partners was its most diverse ever, with 29 per cent women.

The allegations are in line with broader historical complaints about the culture faced by women on Wall Street.

Jamie Fiore Higgins, a veteran executive at Goldman, published a book this year which alleged misogyny and discrimination during her time at the bank. The bank pushed back against her account, insisting that the claims would have been investigated and addressed seriously had they been raised with its human resources department at the time.

Voda struggling to answer the call



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Alistair Osborne*

Some companies can blow up $32 billion of value in hours. Others play a much bigger, and longer, game than the crypto con job FTX. Take telecoms outfit Vodafone.

By comparison, it's a squeaky clean blue chip. But that's proved no bar to value destruction on an epic scale. Rewind to February 2000, when the financial world was aloft on dotcom froth, and there was Voda pulling off one of the biggest ever corporate deals: the £112 billion all-share takeover of German leviathan Mannesmann. Back then, the UK group was briefly valued at £228 billion. Today? A mere £26.4 billion after some lacklustre half-year figures sent the shares down 8 per cent to a quarter-century low of 96p (report, page 45).

Telephone numbers of value have gone. And, of course, only a bit of that's been on the watch of chief executive Nick Read, who took charge in October 2018 with the shares at 160p. But ask him to explain all the vanishing value and he comes up with a rare thing for a company boss: a verbal sell note.

He says the telecoms sector has been destroying value for years. It's invested big time in fixed-line broadband and pricey 3G, 4G and 5G spectrum auctions but failed to push through price rises to get a return on its spending. Indeed, it's just had a "decade of deflation", he says. The upshot? "The sector has got unsustainably low returns on capital". Voda's pre-tax return at the half-year was 6.9 per cent, down from the 7.2 per cent at May's full-year figures when there was a 1.7 percentage point step up. But its cost of capital is about 10 per cent.

On top, the group's now grappling with inflation, not least rocketing energy costs. Read expects a €300 million rise this year and €500 million next: one reason he's cutting adjusted full-year earnings and cashflow guidance to the bottom of the range. They could now be as low as €15 billion and €5.1 billion, not helped by disappointing trading in two of Voda's biggest markets — the top one, Germany, where half-year earnings fell 7 per cent and Italy, down by a similar underlying amount. Hence a looming €1 billion of fresh cost cuts, not that Read will quantify the impact on jobs.

Given all that, why invest in Voda, even allowing for the 8.2 per cent dividend yield on a forecast 9 euro cent payout? Well, Read can also do the buy case. But delivering it is another issue. In a fragmented market, he's pursuing deals to restore pricing power — not least in Britain where he's in talks to merge Voda's mobile network with CK Hutchison's Three. He's also seeking tie-ups in Spain and Italy. Voda has pushed through inflation-linked price hikes in seven European markets. But he admits that, without consolidation, there is "scepticism" over whether they'll stick.

On top, he's looking for ways to unlock value: lately the convoluted deal to sell down Voda's controlling stake in the Frankfurt-listed Vantage Towers masts business. He's on track to clear €5.8 billion and put a dent in Voda's €45.5 billion net debt. Typically, though, the cash will take ages to arrive, while European merger deals always run into a regulatory quagmire.

Read admits: "I, the board, the management are not happy with the share price but I don't think it's out of kilter with the market." But, in a sense, that's the problem. Telecoms has proved itself a value destructive industry. Read's yet to convince he he can quickly move the dial.

Crypto delusion

Sometimes, it takes a 98-year old to tell it like it is: "The country did not need a currency that was good for kidnappers". Yes, Charlie Munger, the crypto sceptic right-hand man to Berkshire Hathaway's stripling of a 92-year old boss, Warren Buffett. Asked what he made of the FTX implosion, Munger said it was "partly fraud and partly delusion", adding: "People think this is a real asset. It's not a real asset".

FTX's creditors are learning that the hard way. They could number a million, at least according to lawyers crawling over the bankrupt empire of Sam Bankman-Fried, the 30-year-old once risibly described as the next Buffett. The Chapter 11 filings span FTX's US and international operations, plus his crypto hedge fund Alameda Research and an eye-popping 130 related entities. Did the likes of Sequoia Capital and Softbank ever ask what they all did?

The fried Bankman's house of cards keeled over with a net $8 billion of liabilities and some dashed-off spreadsheet accounts, including a negative $8 billion entry badged: "hidden, poorly internally labled 'fiat@' account". Is that the thing he was referring to with his ridiculous one-word tweet "What"?

Sadly for the creditors, many of the liabilities are in an asset class Munger would recognise — the US dollar, even if another is bitcoin. But the "assets" seem to be in tokens the Bankman magicked up: FTT and serum. His stash of the latter was in the books for $2 billion, even when it had a total market value of about $80 million. FTX investors were lured into his candyfloss world while he played video games during meetings. No way would Munger have fallen for such nonsense.

Ocado bounce

Up 14 per cent one day, down 17 per cent the next — for no apparent reason whatsoever. What is the yo-yoing stock: some Aim-listed oil or gold outfit? No, it's the FTSE-100's Ocado, the famous van-based, food-delivery tech group.

A fortnight ago the shares shot up 39 per cent on news of a figure-free contract with South Korean retailer Lotte: a deal that'll see Ocado's arsonist robots go multistorey, which could prove wrong on many levels. And, yes, at 770p the shares are above that day's 654½p close. Yet, all this bouncing about? Maybe it shows London investors struggle to value tech. But it's rare the top index sees such a punting stock.

alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk

Inflation takes another bite out of wages

Arthi Nachiappan
Economics Correspondent

Real wages fell again in the face of the highest inflation for 40 years as unemployment remained around its lowest level in decades.

In the three months to September the growth in average total weekly pay, including bonuses, fell by 2.6 per cent compared with the previous year when adjusted for inflation, according to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics. Regular pay, which excludes bonuses, fell by 2.7 per cent.

The fall is slightly smaller than the record 3 per cent drop in real regular pay in the three months to June, but remains among the largest since comparable records began in 2001.

When inflation is included, total pay plus bonuses grew by 6 per cent, while wages excluding bonuses rose by 5.7 per cent.

Andrew Bailey, governor of the Bank of England, said this month that the central bank would raise interest rates if expectations of higher inflation drove up wages.

Inflation, as measured by the consumer prices index, hit 10.1 per cent in September and is expected to rise further when the October increase in energy bills is accounted for.

The squeeze on households has resulted in calls for strikes over the cost of living. Nurses, railway workers, postal workers and lecturers are all calling for pay rises as inflation eats into their earning power.

Jeremy Hunt, the chancellor, said: "I appreciate that people's hard-earned money isn't going as far as it should. Putin's illegal war [in Ukraine] has driven up inflation, a hidden and insidious tax that is eating into pay cheques and savings. Tackling it is my absolute priority.

"Restoring stability and getting debt falling is our only option to reduce inflation and limit interest rate rises."

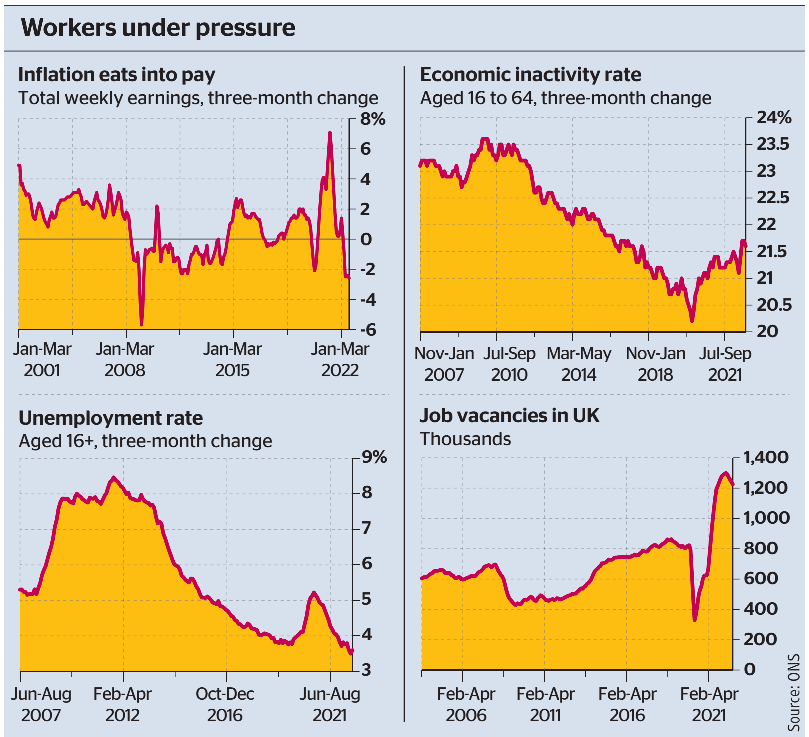
Hunt's autumn statement tomorrow is expected to impose £33 billion of spending cuts and £22 billion in tax rises to fill a £55 billion hole in the public finances.

The unemployment rate remained close to a historic low at 3.6 per cent in the three months to September, compared with 3.8 per cent in the second quarter of the year. Economists polled by Reuters had expected it to fall to 3.5 per cent. The fall in the jobless rate is mainly down to workers leaving the workforce rather than a rise in the share of employed people. The number who have left work because they are suffering from a long-term illness is at a record high.

The level of employment remained 1.1 percentage points below pre-pandemic levels, at 75.5 per cent. The rate of economic inactivity, which describes the proportion of working-age people who are neither employed nor looking for work, rose 0.2 percentage points to 21.6 per cent.

Job vacancies continue to fall from a record high of nearly 1.3 million earlier this year. There were about 1.2 million vacancies in the latest figures for August to October.

Darren Morgan, director of labour and economic statistics at the ONS, said: "August and September saw well over half a million working days lost to strikes, the highest two-month total in more than a decade, with the vast majority coming from the transport and communications sectors. With real earnings continuing to fall, it's not surprising that employers are telling us that most disputes are about pay."



TIMES Travel Offers



Journey through the breathtaking landscapes, age-old civilisations and colourful cultures on this a once-in-a-lifetime South American adventure around Peru, Chile, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil

28 DAYS FROM **£11,290*** per person

This epic journey begins in Peru, where you'll follow in the footsteps of the Inca people and head up into the Andes to explore the Sacred Valley and the lost city of Machu Picchu.

Crossing the waters of Lake Titicaca into Bolivia, you'll discover the incredible landscapes of the Uyuni Salt Flats before heading to Chile and adventuring across the stark beauty of the Atacama Desert. The Uyuni Salt Flats are a vast expanse of nothingness, perfect for photographic perspective and home to ancient mummies and giant cacti. From Santiago de Chile, you'll ascend once again into the awe-inspiring Andes, passing into Argentina, at their peak and descending into the famous wine region of Mendoza.

From the captivating city of Buenos Aires, travel north to stand before the thundering waters of Iguazu, popping over into Brazil, to see these colossal falls from every angle. The waters of the Iguazu River plummeting over a cliff creates a roar that you can feel in your chest, and provides one of nature's most spectacular sights.

ABTA Travel with confidence

*Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement on request. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Wendy Wu, ABTA W7994 ATOL 6639, a company wholly independent of News UK.

Departures
March 2023 to October 2023

Price Includes
- ✓ International flights and current taxes
- ✓ Domestic transportation
- ✓ 26 nights' accommodation in three-star plus / four-star hotels
- ✓ 26 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 12 dinners
- ✓ Exclusive free pre-tour extension including extra hotel night in Lima with breakfast, Barranco walking tour with pisco sour tasting and dinner - quote TIMES-ON when booking

CALL TODAY ON
0808 239 3375
QUOTE TIMES-ON

thetimes.co.uk/southamericatour

China economy hit by Covid curbs

Didi Tang Beijing

China's economy lost momentum last month after an unexpected drop in retail sales and as factory output slowed more than expected, hampered by Covid-19 restrictions and a property downturn.

Retail sales, a gauge of consumption, fell for the first time since May, when Shanghai was under lockdown. They fell 0.5 per cent in October, compared with a 2.5 per cent gain in September and economists' expectations for a 1 per cent rise, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

Covid outbreaks increased, disrupting pandemic-sensitive service businesses, such as restaurants.

Revenue from restaurants and caterers fell by 8.1 per cent, down from a 1.7 per cent drop in September.

The week-long National Day holiday, traditionally a popular time for domestic travel, did little to boost consumption.

Industrial output rose by 5 per cent from a year earlier, down from 6.3 per cent growth in September. Economists had forecast 5.2 per cent.

Property investment fell by 16 per cent in October, the biggest drop since early 2020, according to Reuters calculations based on official data. The sector has slowed sharply as a result of government curbs on excessive borrowing. The government is looking to shore up the property market.

The People's Bank of China and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission asked lenders this week to support the "stable and healthy development of the real estate market" and encouraged financing to property firms. Fu Linghui, a spokesman for the NBS, said the recovery had slowed in October.

> **16%**
> **Fall in property investment in China last month**
> Source: National Bureau of Statistics

He added that demand had contracted, production was dealt a blow, and expectations weakened as the country stepped up efforts to battle the pandemic.

Faced with the downward pressure on the economy, the Chinese government has loosened its pandemic prevention and control measures, although the overall policy of zero-Covid remains unchanged.

JP Morgan, the US investment bank, cut its forecasts for economic growth after the data. The cuts were based on its expectation of a gradual easing of Covid rules, with the reopening of world's second largest economy starting "next spring".

The bank reduced its fourth-quarter growth forecasts to 2.4 per cent quarter-on-quarter from 5.2 per cent previously.

It expects full-year growth of 2.9 per cent, down from 3.1 per cent, and growth next year of 4 per cent, against 4.5 per cent previously.

Goldman Sachs said: "October activity growth broadly slowed and missed market expectations, pointing to a weak start to Q4 as a worsening Covid situation, prolonged property downturn and slower export growth more than offset continued policy stimulus."

Hiring remained low among companies with concerns growing about finances. The jobless rate stayed at 5.5 per cent in October, unchanged from September. Youth unemployment stood at 17.9 per cent, also the same level as September.

Higher costs trigger rise in insolvencies

Helen Cahill

Company insolvencies rose sharply last month as businesses were faced with higher inflation and an uptick in winding-up petitions from HM Revenue & Customs.

The number of corporate insolvencies increased by 38 per cent year-on-year from 1,410 to 1,948, according to figures from the Insolvency Service. The numbers were driven by 1,594 so-called creditors' voluntary liquidations.

Compulsory liquidations rose by 357 per cent annually to 242. The service said that this was partly due to HMRC issuing more demands for repayment from companies.

The tax authority was barred from issuing winding-up petitions during the pandemic as businesses were forced to shut down by the government. However, these restrictions were removed on April 1 this year, leading to an increase in activity against companies.

David Hudson, restructuring partner at FRP Advisory, said: "Inflation is devastating margins and throwing into doubt historically sound business models, which is eating away at confidence, undermining recovery plans and, crucially, testing the resolve of lenders."

Joules, the fashion retailer, became the latest casualty on the high street this week as it called in administrators at Interpath Advisory.

It had sought a bridging loan as it feared defaulting on a Barclays facility due at the end of the month, and it had approached strategic investors about a possible capital raise.

But Tom Joule, its founder, warned yesterday that the business had become too complex to pursue the cost savings required to secure the company's future.

Nicky Fisher, vice-president of R3, the insolvency trade body, said: "The jury is still out on whether the Christmas trading period, which will include an unseasonal football World Cup, will lead to the traditional boom many businesses are hoping for, or whether disappointing sales over the festive period will lead to businesses turning to an insolvency process to resolve their financial issues."

David Smith



Biggest challenge in mini-budget is to restore market's faith in Britain

Jeremy Hunt's autumn statement tomorrow will be a strange beast. Part of it will be a further cleaning up of the mess left behind by Liz Truss's short-lived premiership. The rest will be an additional fiscal tightening beyond merely reversing the Trussonomics experiment.

As chancellor, Rishi Sunak put in place the measures to put the public finances back on track after the fiscal shock of the pandemic. Now, with Hunt in No 11, he is as prime minister putting in place measures to deal with the fiscal shock of Russia-Ukraine and the energy crisis.

At the heart of these things is credibility, particularly the government's credibility in financial markets. The mini-budget delivered by Kwasi Kwarteng on September 23 squandered that in an extraordinarily irresponsible way.

Have Sunak and Hunt got that credibility back, pending what is to be announced this week? Not quite, though markets have been prepared to give them the benefit of the doubt. Ten-year gilt yields, a key measure, are about 3.3 per cent, compared with a peak of more than 4.5 per cent a few weeks ago. Expectations in money markets for where the Bank of England's base rate is heading, once more than 6 per cent, are now less than 5 per cent. Sterling is about $1.18 against the dollar and €1.14 against the euro, and I have not seen any recent forecasts for the pound's imminent drop below dollar parity, which were once commonplace.

All these readings are much better than a few weeks ago, but none are back to where they were before the Truss experiment. The pound spent much of the summer above $1.20 and somewhat higher than now against the euro. Ten-year gilt yields were below 3 per cent in early September. In August, when the Bank did its previous forecasts, the money markets expected a 3 per cent rate peak. We are already there, courtesy of the Bank's latest decision, with more to come. Some of these changes reflect global developments. But issues specific to the UK have not gone away. Ratings agencies have a mixed reputation but those that put the UK's sovereign debt rating onto a negative outlook after Truss and Kwarteng's handiwork — S&P, Moody's and Fitch — have not yet changed their minds. It would clearly be a credibility win for Hunt and Sunak if they did so after this week's autumn statement.

We have not seen such a focus on improving credibility in financial markets since the launch of George Osborne and David Cameron's austerity programme in 2010. Then, the UK was said by one investor to be "sitting on a bed of nitroglycerine". Now we have seen what happens when you let it explode.

Though markets are calmer, and do not look ready to repeat anything like the September sell-off, there remains a challenge. If I am reading the runes correctly, much of the fiscal consolidation about to be announced will be deferred. That includes much tougher outline public spending plans beyond 2024-25 and an additional freeze on many tax allowances and thresholds, including those for income tax and national insurance, from 2026 to 2028.

Deferring pain makes sense, given the economy's fragile state, but it creates a big potential credibility problem. The Sunak-Hunt strategy is a safe-pair-of-hands approach, in that by steering the economy through a tough time, and helping the Bank to get inflation down, they will be rewarded by voters at the next election even though the Office for Budget Responsibility, the official forecaster, will tell us that the next couple of years looks grim.



Investors are craving stability after Liz Truss's chaotic premiership

Stranger things have happened. John Major won the 1992 general election for the Tories even though the economy was only just emerging from a recession it had entered nearly two years earlier. The safe-pair-of-hands approach won the day, though before long it was tested to destruction. History could repeat itself, but under Sunak the Tories remain a long way behind Labour in the polls, and the measures announced tomorrow will probably make them sink further. For markets there will remain a high likelihood of a change in government at the next election, so that the Tories are making promises that they will not be around to carry out.

Does a fiscal consolidation that is mainly due to be carried out in the next parliament count as a consolidation at all? It is a bit like the age-old question of when a tree falls in a forest, and nobody is there to witness it, does it make a sound?

That is not the only issue. Tory MPs, members and donors have been well behaved since Sunak replaced Truss, perhaps out of embarrassment about the prime minister they had previously inflicted on the country. They may not stay quiet for long, if the Sunak and Hunt's hair-shirted strategy proves too uncomfortable for voters in the polls, and as the tax burden heads inexorably towards the highest level since the Attlee government in the late 1940s.

A fractious Tory party will trouble markets looking for stability. Even Sunak is aware that he has to offer some carrots, though we are told not to expect any rabbits out of the hat tomorrow. Heading for the G20 summit in Bali this week he said that fixing the public finances was "how we're going to be able to cut people's taxes over time and support public services". Please let us not see distant promises of cuts in the basic rate of income tax.

Both Sunak and Hunt are tied into trying to make the best of Brexit, and denying its negative impact, despite Michael Saunders, a former Bank monetary policy committee member, telling Bloomberg TV this week that Brexit permanently damaged the economy, necessitating this week's measures. Realism helps credibility.

Sunak and Hunt have brought the UK back from the brink, but we are still not off the cliff entirely. The outcome this week will depend on how much the markets are prepared to take on trust.

David Smith is Economics Editor of The Sunday Times
david.smith@sunday-times.co.uk

Katie Prescott

Crypto's alphabet soup is crying out for three more letters: the FCA

Ever since the collapse of the crypto exchange FTX last week amid allegations of fraud and mismanagement, there has been an almost continuous Twitter Spaces event — a massive teleconference therapy session — to discuss what went on.

The crypto community is asking how did this happen? What does this mean for us? And what does it mean for crypto?

The roll call of speakers has ranged from former US government officials and regulators to Hunter Biden, Elon Musk and crypto bosses. At points, there were hundreds of thousands of people listening in to the rolling discussion.

There is palpable fear and confusion about how FTX, which had a top-notch reputation, could have folded in this way. More than that, there is betrayal, anger and outrage.

> 'As one accountant put it, with crypto it's like walking into a casino: you've got to be prepared to lose it all'

Before conversations were shut down, the FTX group on the Telegram app was full of desperate users. Messages included "When will FTX open? Anybody know?" and "Error 503, anyone else?".

Investors referred to money that disappeared as the company was going under. "There's no way it was a hack. He [FTX boss Sam Bankman-Fried] doesn't even want to give us what's left."

Trust among this community has been virtually eradicated. Online, users swap advice about how to keep their crypto coins safe. The most common answer? Keep them offline.

It is easy from the outside to mock this alphabet soup of a story, featuring characters known by their initials such as CZ, head of rival Binance, or the protagonist himself, SBF, who tweeted out "What HAPPENED?" letter by letter at slow intervals as his followers watched, dumbfounded, at the emergence of stories of how funds may have been misused.

Whatever happened, there is a human cost to this debacle: people lost substantial sums after putting real cash into something that had no protection. As forensic accountant Hinesh Shah at the law firm Pinsent Masons put it, with crypto, it's like walking into a casino: you've got to be prepared to lose it all.

FTX compounds other implosions in the sector this year, such as the collapse of terra, a stablecoin, and luna, its sister currency, in which investors collectively lost $40 billion in a matter of days.

Regulation has long been controversial in the crypto community. Many hate the idea of officials getting involved in something designed to be independent — but, like it or not, after so much talk and so many disasters, it feels both necessary and inevitable. With an average age of 36, nearly one in five people in the UK own some cryptocurrency, according to the platform Gemini. Out of this mess must come momentum for change.

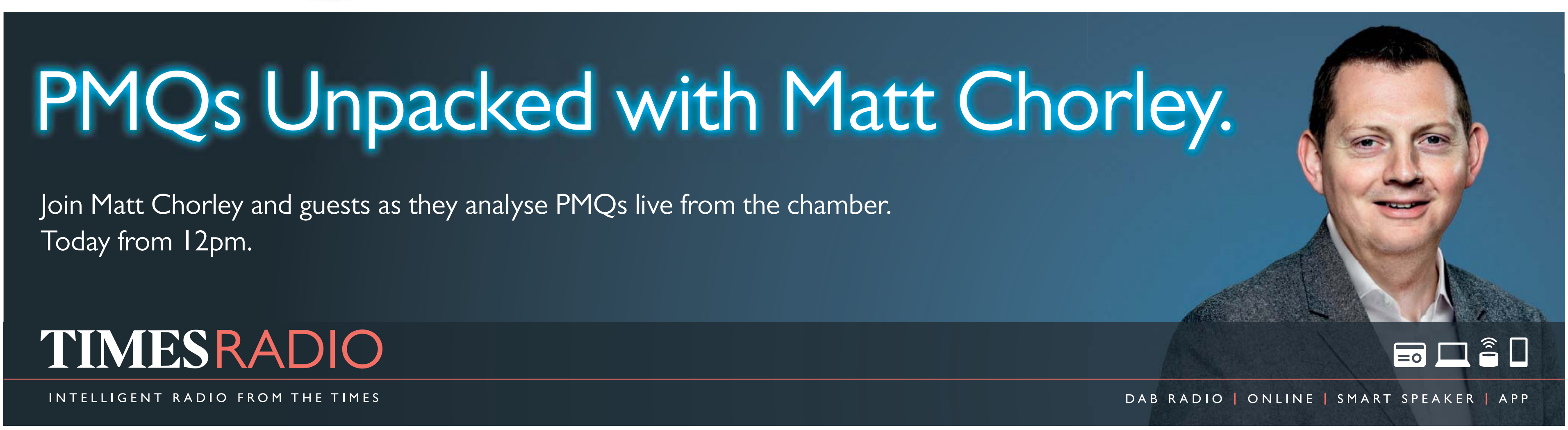
The Financial Conduct Authority can only warn people of potential risks with crypto. The sector has no capital requirements, as there are in banking, and no financial services compensation scheme. Crypto businesses might find it tough to get UK regulatory approval but consumers can use them regardless.

When the Treasury select committee held a session on the sector on Monday, Ian Taylor, executive director at the industry body CryptoUK, said pointedly that "founder members" had testified to it in 2018 that they wanted regulation, and that had there been some then four years later perhaps these recent events might not have been allowed to happen.

The EU will vote on its Markets in Crypto-Assets regulation (MiCA) in February. It is now up to the Treasury to give powers to the regulators to deal with what should be the basics: governance, transparency and record-keeping.

And yes, Binance has an emergency insurance fund. It is just unfortunate its acronym, SAFU — secure asset fund for users — is so close to SNAFU: situation normal, all f*ed up. More alphabet soup.**

Have you been affected by the collapse of FTX? Get in touch at katie.prescott@thetimes.co.uk



Crackdown on shadow banking firms

Ben Martin Banking Editor

Shadow banking firms should draw up contingency plans so that they can be safely wound down if they collapse, the boss of the City regulator has told peers scrutinising the recent turmoil that gripped pension schemes.

Nikhil Rathi, the chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, said an "important point" that had emerged from the pension crisis was the extent to which retirement schemes and other non-bank firms should have "resolution regimes".

Under reforms brought in after the 2007-09 financial crisis, Britain's biggest banks are required to devise plans to show how they could be allowed to fail without the need for a taxpayer bailout. Rathi told the Lords industry and regulators committee yesterday that "testing for failure" could be extended to other financial firms.

"In the banking sector we have a stress test but then we have a resolution regime, so we require detailed planning for if you blow through the stress test, how would the system cope and how would you fail," he said.

"That work needs to be done in the non-bank space, not just pension funds but I think across the non-bank arena."

City regulators are preparing to crack down on the shadow banking industry after pension schemes went into crisis as government bond markets sold-off sharply after the mini-budget on September 23.

Rathi told peers "it's not obvious" that schemes "had the financial acumen" to understand the liability-driven investments they had been using.

Charles Counsell, head of the Pensions Regulator, told the committee: "We're working alongside the FCA to consider whether we should make a statement to [liability-driven investment] funds and to pension schemes that operate segregated arrangements about the level of collateral we expect them to keep, which would mean there is a stronger buffer in the event of very sharp bond yield movements."



Smokers crave alternative, says Imperial boss

Alex Ralph

Smokers will not quit until they are satisfied with alternative products, the boss of one of Britain's big tobacco companies said in response to calls from the government's chief medical adviser for the industry to be "destroyed".

Sir Chris Whitty, speaking at a symposium on medical ethics this month, had said it was an "appalling way to die" and "getting smoking down to zero and destroying the cigarette industry should be an aim of public health".

Responding to the comments yesterday, Stefan Bomhard, chief executive of Bristol-based Imperial Brands, the makers of Lambert & Butler, said: "Clearly I understand this perspective because logically there is a health risk associated with smoking — there's no doubt about it".

But Bomhard, 55, added: "Many smokers aren't ready to stop unless they're really satisfied with an alternative to cigarettes. That's the reality. You have to look at the last 20-30 years to see what's happened."

A review by Javed Khan, a former chief executive of Barnardo's, warned in June that without tougher measures the government would miss its target to have less than 5 per cent of the population smoking by 2030, from 14 per cent at present.

Bomhard was speaking as Imperial posted full-year results boosted by its renewed focus on driving tobacco sales in its five core markets.

It has taken a more cautious approach to investing in "reduced risk" products, such as e-cigarettes and devices that heat rather than burn tobacco, but Bomhard said it was still "working hard to develop... products to meet their needs".

Imperial has gained market share in four of its five core markets, including the UK, where it has been "rejuvenating local jewel brands", such as Embassy and Regal, and "maximising the potential" of fine cut tobacco, including the Players Easy Rolling and Riverstone brands. The success of the strategy has led Imperial to launch a £1 billion share buyback and its share price to rally by a quarter this year. They closed down 11p, or 0.56 per cent, at £20.27p.

Imperial is one of the world's largest tobacco companies, which traces its roots in Bristol to 1786. Despite the regulatory and social pressure on smoking, the industry remains highly cash generative, helped by rising prices of cigarettes and sales in emerging markets.

Imperial's free cash flow rose 68.1 per cent to more than £2.5 billion in the year to the end of September. Net revenue rose by 1.5 per cent to £7.8 billion at constant currencies and operating profit 1.8 per cent to almost £3.7 billion, helped by "resilient" tobacco pricing.

However, on the pre-tax level profit fell to £2.6 billion from £3.2 billion previously after taking a £463 million hit from its move to pull out of Russia and associated markets.

Tobacco volumes declined by 4.7 per cent, or 1.2 per cent excluding Russia. Imperial downgraded its full-year forecasts in March after exiting Russia, a lucrative tobacco market, in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

Bomhard, a former car sales boss at Inchcape, is almost two years into a five-year strategy. He took charge in July 2020 after a downturn in Imperial's performance and share price under Alison Cooper, the previous chief.

Imperial has trailed Philip Morris International and British American Tobacco in the shift to non-combustible tobacco, but net revenue in what it calls its next generation products business rose 10.8 per cent to £208 million.

It has been trialling Pulze and iD sticks, its heated brands, in the Czech Republic and Greece and has recently launched in Portugal, Hungary and Italy, the largest European market for the category. Following a trial in France of its new vapour device, blu 2.0, it has launched in the UK.

"Successful consumer trials have validated our approach and we are now stepping up investment in new product and market launches across all three product categories," Bomhard said.

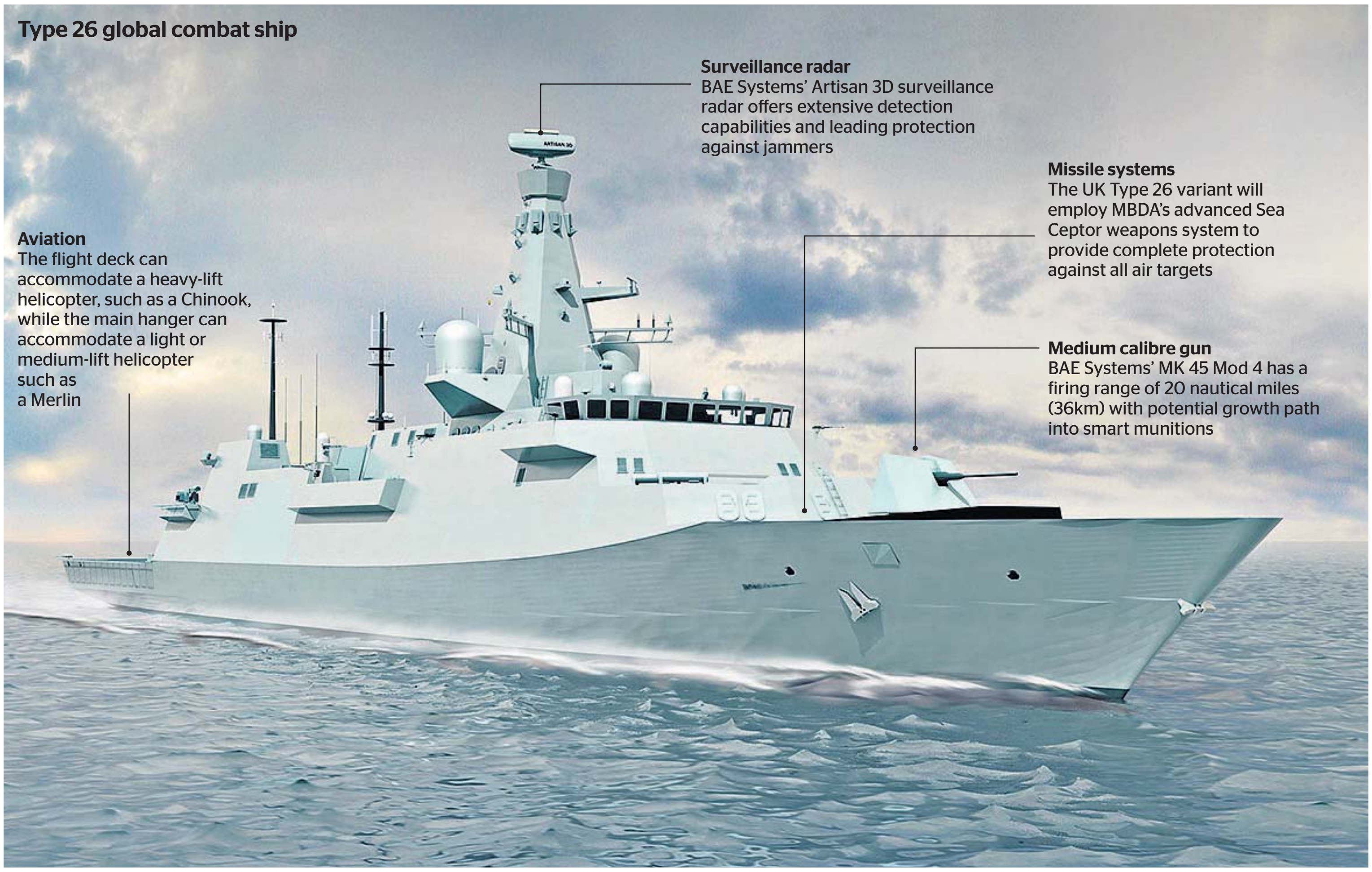
THE TIMES

Business briefing

With inflation hitting fresh highs, central banks raising rates at a rapid pace and the cost of oil and gas yo-yoing, markets are going through a volatile phase as British firms scramble to cope with the effects of soaring costs. With the situation changing by the hour, keeping up to date is essential. Get the latest news and market reaction by 8am, and analysis at 12.30pm, direct by email from the Business Editor, Richard Fletcher, and the Business News Editor, Martyn Strydom.



Sign up at home.thetimes.co.uk/myNews



Royal Navy deal keeps BAE on course for a 'strong year'

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

BAE Systems, the UK's premier defence company, said that it was on course for a "very strong year" with £28 billion in new orders, including £10 billion since the half-year alone.

Nearly 45 per cent of its business is in US dollars, in sales to the US military. The company said the recent fall in sterling against the dollar would boost profits, with earnings per share expected to be up by between 4 per cent and 6 per cent on a constant currency basis compared with last year.

It also reported that the government had finally confirmed that the Royal Navy will take another five Type 26 frigates on top of the three that are already under construction at the company's historic Govan yard on the Clyde, a decision that has been five years in the waiting.

Shares in BAE have been weak this month as investors weighed up the ramifications of the recent souring in relations between the US and Saudi Arabia over oil production. There were fears that BAE may be affected since Saudi Arabia is its next largest customer after the US and UK governments, with BAE supplying and servicing Typhoon and Tornado fighters, accounting for £2.5 billion of group sales or 12 per cent of annual revenues

Last month BAE shares hit an all-time high of 834p per share as defence firms benefited from rising geopolitical tension over Russia's war in Ukraine and China's increased bellicosity towards Taiwan. However, by the end of last week BAE's stock had fallen nearly 15 per cent in a month.

A bullish trading update to the stock market yesterday for the expected outturn of the year, as well as the £4.2 billion order for five more Type 26s, saw BAE's shares rise by 11p, or 1.5 per cent, to 737¼p to value the group at more than £23 billion. BAE is the product of the 1999 takeover by British Aerospace of Marconi Electronic Systems, the defence division of the now-defunct GEC conglomerate, and of several US acquisitions since.

It manufactures fighters for the RAF, warships and submarines for the Royal Navy and bullets for the British Army. In the US it sells electronics systems, constructs the back end of F-35 fighter jet, repairs naval vessels, builds combat vehicles and artillery, and does cyberwork for the Pentagon. Together the two markets account for nearly two thirds of BAE's business.

In recent months Charles Woodburn, 51, its chief executive, said that the war in Ukraine had been good news for its European operations as it led to new orders for Typhoons, Hagglunds combat vehicles and missiles made by its MBDA subsidiary as countries boosted their defences.

In a statement with the trading update, he said: "Order flow remains strong [with a] large order backlog. We see sales growth coming from all sectors and opportunities to further enhance the medium-term outlook as our customers address the elevated threat environment."

The statement added: "Many of the countries in which we operate have either announced increases or are making plans to increase spending to address the elevated threat environment."

The group's previous guidance to the City, calibrated in February at $1.38 to the pound, had indicated underlying operating profits up by as much as 6 per cent at £2.33 billion, on revenues 2.4 per cent better at £21.8 billion.

Following the slump in sterling, if the dollar averages out at $1.23 to the pound, says BAE, those operating profits could be nearer £2.46 billion on revenues of £23.3 billion.

The company said it is 30 per cent through a three-year £1.5 billion buyback of shares.

Tyson urged to appoint outsider for arrest review

Callum Jones

Tyson Foods is facing calls to expand a review into the recent arrest of its chief financial officer as corporate governance experts questioned its independence.

John Randal Tyson, who is the son of the American meat giant's chairman, and the great-grandson of its founder, apologised to investors this week following his arrest this month.

A college-aged woman was alarmed to have found Tyson, 32, asleep in her bed upon returning home, according to a police report in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She did not know him.

"I'm embarrassed, and I want to let you know that I take full responsibility for my actions," the executive said on an earnings call on Monday. "I also want to apologise to our investors, as I have to our employees.

"This was an incident inconsistent with our company values, as well as my personal values. I just wanted you guys to hear this directly from me and to know that I'm committed to making sure this never happens again."

Tyson Foods was founded in 1935 by John W Tyson and is one of the largest meat processing businesses in the US. It is based in Springdale, Arkansas, and has 139,000 staff. The company is led and remains controlled by the Tyson family, but went public in 1980 and has a market value of about $23 billion.

Donnie King, the company's president and chief executive, announced on Monday's call that it had launched a review into the actions of its chief financial officer.

"The company takes this matter seriously. Our independent board of directors are overseeing a thorough review of this matter, and I'm confident in this independent process," he said.

The review will be overseen by the governance committee of Tyson Foods' board of directors. No Tyson family members serve on this committee.

Academics called on the business to recruit an external figure to lead the review, however, due to the Tyson family's ties with the company.

"The board should send a strong signal that independence is important and publicly appoint an external adviser to conduct the review," Paolo Volpin, a finance professor at Drexel University in Philadelphia, told Reuters.

Philip Cochran, management professor at Indiana University, added: "There's too much potential for this to be seen as a conflict of interest."

A spokesman for Tyson Foods did not respond to a request for comment.

Walmart will pay $3.1 billion to settle US opioids lawsuits

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

Walmart has agreed to pay $3.1 billion to settle lawsuits over the US opioids crisis after rival retailers also agreed huge payouts.

Earlier this month Walgreens Boots Alliance agreed to pay about $5.7 billion and CVS Health about $5 billion to resolve thousands of actions.

The claims were brought by states, cities and native American tribes. Each of the groups will have to decide whether to participate in the settlement, The Wall Street Journal said.

Opioid abuse has claimed more than half a million US lives and there have been more than 3,000 lawsuits against the pharmaceutical industry and related elements.

The US Department of Justice filed a lawsuit in 2020 claiming that Walmart sought to boost profits by understaffing pharmacies and pressuring employees to fill prescriptions quickly.

This settlement does not cover the federal case, said the WSJ. Walmart tried to sue the government, claiming it was being made a scapegoat, but lost.

"Walmart is proud of our pharmacists and our efforts to help fight the opioid crisis," the group said in a statement. "Walmart strongly disputes the allegations in these matters, and this settlement framework does not include any admission of liability."

Both Walgreens and CVS said their agreements did not amount to an admission of wrongdoing or liability.

Walmart announced the settlement alongside its latest quarterly results. It lifted its annual sales guidance and announced a $20 billion share buyback after demand for groceries remained robust in the face of rampant inflation and it tackled inventory issues.

The US retail giant beat expectations in the past quarter, with revenue rising 8.7 per cent to $152.8 billion. But it swung to pre-tax loss of $1.4 billion as a result of the legal settlements to resolve state and local lawsuits alleging that it had mishandled opioid drugs. Its shares closed up by 6.5 per cent, or $9.05, to $147.44 in New York yesterday.

Walmart rattled investors this summer by downgrading its outlook for the year. Yesterday it moved to reduce apprehension, however, lifting its annual net sales forecast from 4.5 per cent to 5.5 per cent. As it approaches the festive trading season it expects sales growth of 3 per cent in the current quarter.

Founded in Arkansas in 1962, Walmart is the world's biggest retailer by sales, having generated revenue of $572.8 billion last year.

● **Estée Lauder said last night it had clinched a deal to buy the fashion label Tom Ford for $2.8 billion in what would be its biggest acquisition to date. Shares of Estée Lauder, which already licenses Tom Ford fragrances and cosmetics, dipped 38 cents, or 0.2 per cent, in late trading on Wall Street to $226.60, valuing the company at $81 billion. It has net sales of $17.7 billion. Tom Ford entered into exclusive negotiations with Estée Lauder last week, beating bids from other firms including Kering, the Gucci owner.**

Russian embargoes set to force diesel prices even higher

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

The International Energy Agency has sounded the alarm over "exceptionally tight" diesel markets and record high prices that are fuelling inflation.

Diesel prices in October were 70 per cent higher than a year ago, while the "crack" — the difference between the price of diesel and the crude oil from which it is made — was 425 per cent higher, the agency said in its monthly market report.

"High diesel prices are fuelling inflation, adding pressure on the global economy and world oil demand," it said, predicting that demand for crude would now contract by 240,000 barrels per day in the fourth quarter.

The looming European Union embargoes on Russian crude from December and oil product imports from February, as well as a ban on maritime services, "will add further pressure on global oil balances and, in particular, on already exceptionally tight diesel markets", the IEA warned.

"The competition for non-Russian diesel will be fierce, with EU countries having to bid cargoes from the US, Middle East and India away from their traditional buyers," it said, raising the spectre that prices may rise further still.

Diesel prices jumped by more than 10p per litre last month to about 190p, the third biggest monthly increase and adding more than £5 to the cost of filling up a typical 55-litre diesel car.

The AA said that prices for diesel had fallen back slightly in the past fortnight, to 189p as of Monday.

However, the fuel remained almost 25p per litre more expensive than petrol, which "continues to vex owners of diesel cars and obviously spells bad news for haulage, deliveries and business in general".

The energy agency said that diesel markets "were already in deficit before Russia's invasion of Ukraine" because of the closure of 3.5 million barrels per day of refinery distillation capacity since the start of the pandemic, resulting in a net decline of a million barrels per day.

"With the post-pandemic recovery in 2021, demand jumped for diesel and gas oil, the main engines of industrial activity and economic growth," the IEA said.

Lower exports of diesel from China had also tightened the market.

Strikes at refineries in France last month and concerns over the looming Russian embargoes had led to a surge in diesel prices in Europe, the agency said, while "diesel premiums in the United States have also soared ahead of the winter heating season in the northeast".

ALAIN JOCARD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Strikes at French refineries have contributed to diesel rising 70 per cent in a year

The EU was still importing 560,000 barrels of diesel from Russia every day in October, alongside 1.4 million barrels per day of crude oil.

"When the crude and product embargoes come into full force in December and February, respectively, an additional 1.1 million barrels per day of crude and 1 million barrels per day of diesel, naphtha and fuel oil will have to be replaced," the agency said.

It offered some hope of an easing to the markets with a recent change in policy in China making more diesel available and the expected start-up of 2.7 million barrels per day of new distillation capacity globally between this quarter and the end of next year, which "could offset lower exports from Russia following the embargo".

"Increased refinery capacity will eventually help to ease diesel tensions. However, until then, if prices go too high, further demand destruction may be inevitable for the market imbalances to clear," it said.

Oil firms drive global record for dividends

Tom Saunders

Shareholders were paid a record $46.4 billion in payouts from oil companies as dividends rose by 75.1 per cent in the third quarter.

Global payouts grew by 10.3 per cent year-on-year to $415.9 billion, a record for the third quarter, according to the Global Dividend Index from the asset manager Janus Henderson.

Oil and gas producers almost exclusively drove the increase in global payouts, which were largely disbursed through one-off special payments.

In the UK, 84 per cent of companies raised dividends or kept them steady, lower than the global average of 90 per cent. Overall, mining dividends were down by a third in the UK, while banking and oil dividends were higher.

Dividends rose by 2.5 per cent in the UK but the effect of a weaker pound resulted in an overall decline of 6.4 per cent. But about two fifths of UK companies, mostly multinationals with headquarters in the UK, were insulated from foreign exchange fluctuations as they declared dividends in dollars.

Taiwan was one of the principal drivers of the global growth in dividends. Its third-quarter dividends almost doubled year-on-year, rising 95.5 per cent to $29.9 billion. The record third quarter has led Janus Henderson to upgrade its global dividend estimates for the year by $30 billion to $1.56 trillion, up 8.3 per cent on the previous year.

25% off tickets for Alcina at the Royal Opera House

This month you can enjoy the incredible *Alcina* at the Royal Opera House – where wild fantasies and dark desires come to life.



Visit the new-look mytimesplus.co.uk

TIMES+ OFFERS | COMPETITIONS | EVENTS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

T&Cs apply.

Finance bill must not be charter for vested interests

Charles Randell
Comment

Now, more than ever, financial regulation needs to work for the whole country. Financial businesses or their lobbyists met Treasury ministers nearly 200 times last year. In the same period Treasury ministers met consumer organisations fewer than a dozen times. UK Finance and the Association of British Insurers (banking and insurance lobby groups) were granted ten times more meetings by ministers than Citizens Advice.

This close relationship between politics and finance is as old as banking itself. It is one reason why parliament entrusts financial regulation to independent regulators with clear objectives to maintain the safety and soundness of our financial system and protect consumers, operating transparent processes which help to level the playing field. International organisations like the IMF, and indeed the Treasury itself, say this regulatory independence strengthens financial stability. Above all, it weakens the hold of vested interests.

One of the original aims of the Financial Services and Markets Bill currently before parliament was to set out a relationship between parliament, the government and the regulators that would be fit for a future outside the EU. It followed extensive public consultation. It was on course to maintain the independence of our financial regulators while enhancing their accountability to parliament. Now, very late in the legislative process, the government plans to radically alter that course. It proposes ministers should be delegated power by parliament to step in when they do not like rules that a regulator is about to make, and instead impose rules of their own choosing.

No details have been given, but it is unlikely that there would be much democratic accountability: the House of Commons has not rejected a single delegated measure in over 40 years.

The bill should not now become a mechanism for vested interests to lobby ministers to circumvent the processes of public consultation, analysis and democratic accountability which regulators rightly have to follow.

The government should leave the independent institutions which deliver financial regulation to do their job, with our parliament holding their feet firmly to the fire.

Charles Randell CBE was a member of the Bank of England's Prudential Regulation Committee from 2013 to 2018 and chairman of the Financial Conduct Authority from 2018 until earlier this year.

Vodafone takes hit as it warns of cost cutting and job losses

Alex Ralph

Vodafone has cut its annual cash flow and profit forecasts amid higher energy costs, rising inflation and weaker trading in parts of Europe.

The telecoms group issued the outlook alongside weaker-than-expected half-year earnings, which sent its shares down 8¼p, or 8 per cent, to close at a 20-year low of 96p.

The headwinds prompted Vodafone, in whose share register activist investors have built stakes this year, to launch a new cost-cutting target of more than €1billion.

Nick Read, chief executive, said that an efficiency programme, which has already reduced costs by €1.5billion, would be extended to 2026 and involve "streamlining and simplifying our group-wide structure and further accelerating the digitalisation of our operations". Read, 58, said "there are impacts on some job roles, but we're also creating jobs in other areas", such as software engineers.

Last week rival BT raised its cost-savings target by a fifth to £3billion and is preparing to cut further jobs in the face of inflationary pressures, provoking renewed criticism from unions.

To offset those pressures Vodafone is also raising prices and has introduced inflation-linked structures in seven European markets, including the UK, its home market, where prices rose in line with the consumer price index inflation measure, plus 3.9 per cent.

"Our industry has faced a decade of deflation," Read said. "Our return on capital employed is at an unsustainably low level. We are facing significant negative impacts on inflation and energy, which you have seen by the lowering of our guidance. So price is a key component of what we have to do."

Vodafone lowered its adjusted earnings forecast this year to between €15billion and €15.2billion, down from a target of between €15billion and €15.5billion. It cut its cash flow forecast by €200million to €5.1 billion.

Analysts at Credit Suisse said that the guidance "leaves a question mark on the sustainability of Vodafone's mid-term guidance".

Adjusted earnings fell by 2.6 per cent to €7.2 billion in the six months to the end of September, weakened by "underperformance" in Germany, its largest market, which accounts for 30 per cent of group service revenue after the €18billion acquisition of cable assets from Liberty Global. The fall in revenue in Germany accelerated in the second quarter to -1.1per cent, from -0.5 per cent in the first quarter, mainly due to broadband customer losses after new legislation.

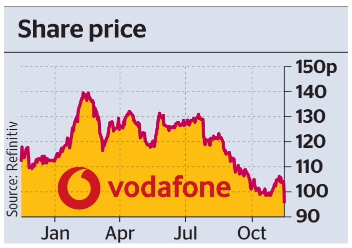
Trading in Italy and Spain fell but this was offset by growth in the UK, leaving the group with service revenue growth of 2.5 per cent to €19.2billion.

Vodafone, whose British business is based in Newbury, Berkshire, is one of the world's largest telecoms groups, selling mobile, landline, broadband and television services.

Beyond cutting debts and costs, Read has been seeking to consolidate its operations in Europe amid its weak share price, which is down 40 per cent since he took charge.

Last week Vodafone agreed to further sell down its controlling stake in Vantage Towers, its Frankfurt-listed mobile phone masts business, to a consortium led by two private equity firms and backed by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, in a deal that could raise about €5.8 billion.

Vodafone is in talks with Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison, owner of Three, to merge in the UK to create the country's biggest mobile network operator. Read said that they "continued to make good progress" in the negotiations.





Vodafone, which sponsors Ireland rugby, will extend to 2026 a cost-cutting programme that has so far saved €1.5billion

Activist fund demands Alphabet slash workforce

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

One of the world's most established activist hedge funds, where Rishi Sunak was a partner, has called on Google's parent Alphabet to "take aggressive action" to cut its headcount, salaries and other costs in response to slowing revenue growth.

In a letter, Sir Christopher Hohn, managing director of London-based The Children's Investment (TCI) fund, which said it owns shares in the technology giant valued at $6 billion, wrote of the need for "cost discipline", adding "the company has too many employees and the cost per employee is too high".

"Alphabet pays some of the highest salaries in Silicon Valley", Hohn said. "There is no justification for this enormous disparity."

Median compensation at the business was $295,884 in 2021: 67 per cent higher than Microsoft and 153 per cent higher than the 20 largest listed US tech companies, according to analysis by S&P Global cited by Hohn.

Hohn said the company should also cut its losses in its Other Bets division, which houses emerging firms such as self-driving cars and health tech.

In its third-quarter results, Alphabet reported a slowdown in its advertising business, partly as a result of the uncertain economic climate. Revenue grew by 6 per cent, its slowest rate since 2013 and below analyst expectations.

Hohn, the son of a Jamaican car mechanic, is a noted philanthropist and has forged a reputation as one of the City's canniest investors since setting up TCI in 2003. His fund is known for pursuing activist campaigns at companies it invests in and has $35 billion in assets under management.

Alphabet could not be reached for comment.

Second senior HSBC boss heads for exit

Ben Martin Banking Editor

A second senior executive at HSBC is leaving the bank in a potential setback to the FTSE 100 lender as it seeks to fend off an activist campaign by its biggest shareholder.

Chirantan Barua, who is HSBC's global head of strategy, is to join Lloyds Banking Group as the head of its Scottish Widows division, it was announced yesterday. This comes only three weeks after HSBC surprised its shareholders by disclosing the exit of Ewen Stevenson, its highly regarded finance chief, who will leave next year.

Barua's departure comes as HSBC faces intense scrutiny of its strategy amid a rift with Ping An, the Chinese insurer that is its leading investor.

It emerged in April that Ping An was calling on HSBC to break itself up by spinning off its huge Asian business into a separate company listed in Hong Kong. While HSBC's board has rejected Ping An's proposal and defended its existing strategy, the Shenzhen-based insurer has not backed down.

This month the Chinese group, which owns about 8 per cent of HSBC, publicly questioned the lender's sprawling international structure and urged it to "think of what a new global model should look like".

HSBC is based in London but makes most of its money in Asia, with Hong Kong its biggest market. An HSBC insider said that Barua's exit would make no difference to the bank's strategy.

Noel Quinn, HSBC chief executive, said: "Chira has added significant value during his time at HSBC. This is a great opportunity for him, we support him and wish him the best of luck."

Barua, who was previously a partner at the consultancy group McKinsey, joined HSBC in May 2020 and was elevated to its executive committee about a year later. He joins Lloyds next year and will succeed Antonio Lorenzo in charge of the bank's pensions, insurance and investments unit.

Lorenzo has been with Lloyds for 11 years and is retiring.

Stevenson, who has been with HSBC since December 2018, said last month that he would take time off after leaving the lender and insisted that there had been "absolutely zero disagreement between Noel and I on strategy".

Georges Elhedery is being promoted to replace Stevenson as finance chief and has been earmarked as a leading candidate to eventually replace Quinn as chief executive.

A spokeswoman for Ping An did not comment on Barua's departure.

HSBC shares closed down ¼p, or 0.1 per cent, to 480p and Lloyds' shares rose ¼p, or 0.3 per cent, to 43¾p.


AC60935
Take your business from A to Brooklyn
Looking for a truly global perspective on business growth? Come to a global bank. In our 'Going Global for Growth' report we surveyed over 2,100 UK businesses to reveal how leaders have adapted their businesses to capitalise on international growth opportunities and overcome challenges. Navigate global business opportunities like a local with HSBC UK.
Find out more at grp.hsbc/international-report
HSBC UK
Opening up a world of opportunity
PROUD TO SUPPORT
GREAT
BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

The Times unit trust information service

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	...
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	154.73	...	+0.39	2.67
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	317.46	...	+1.43	4.99
UK Gwth A ‡@	7875.83	...	+27.47	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	0.07

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2094.77	...	+6.97	3.24
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	368.80	...	+2.65	2.22
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	46.40	...	-0.35	1.10
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	337.16	...	-0.67	1.82
Global Income R Acc ‡@	157.80	...	+0.13	4.16
Global Income R Inc ‡@	100.43	...	+0.09	4.31
Global Select R Acc ‡@	151.24	...	-0.96	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	60.86	...	+0.10	5.84
Income R Acc ‡@	496.10	...	+2.16	4.16
Income R Inc ‡@	217.49	...	+0.95	4.29
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	65.06	...	+0.06	4.88
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡	83.88	...	-0.28	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	93.80	...	+0.15	3.09
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	49.73	...	+0.07	3.15
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	93.63	...	+0.15	3.09
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.67	...	+0.08	3.14
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	645.30	...	+0.97	1.32
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1814.87	...	+0.81	0.95
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	654.01	...	+2.20	1.17

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	...
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	2955.00	...	-10.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	...
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	235.70	...	+0.50	4.69
UK Growth Inc ‡@	217.20	...	+0.20	0.70
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1912.00	...	+4.00	1.12
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	264.00	...	+0.20	...

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	...
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	...

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	...
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	2.30

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	199.80	...	+0.60	...
Sus Leaders ‡@	753.20	...	+2.20	1.08
UK Growth ‡@	609.50	...	+3.40	2.17
UK Income ‡@	207.50	...	+0.70	5.14

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3504.36	...	+25.57	0.91

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	85.34	...	...	...
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	305.00	...	+0.30	...
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	317.50	...	-2.40	0.08
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	118.60	...	+0.10	5.20
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	216.20	...	+0.50	1.03
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	268.60	...	+1.10	0.94

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.71	...	+0.01	1.64
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1159.00	...	+8.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	42.81	...	+0.09	1.86
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	412.50	...	+2.10	3.19
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	313.60	...	-3.10	...
High Inc Trst @	11.16	11.77	-0.02	5.71
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.43	...	+0.06	2.86
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	841.50	...	-15.00	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	484.20	...	+6.40	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	194.00	...	...	1.66
UK Equity ‡@	3357.00	...	+21.00	1.35
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1015.00	...	+2.00	0.20

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2403.00	...	-22.00	...
American ‡@	5012.00	...	-67.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	555.20	...	+3.10	...
European ‡@	3280.00	...	+15.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	22.45	...	+0.01	5.23
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5467.00	...	-25.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2909.00	...	-20.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	533.50	...	+3.90	0.54
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	43.67	...	+0.13	3.81
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	29.20	...	-0.02	4.48
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	124.20	...	+0.63	3.11

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Special Sits ‡@	4392.00	...	+5.00	1.33
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.73	...	-0.01	3.04
Ethical ‡@	110.90	...	-0.90	0.01
European ‡@	106.00	...	+0.20	2.05
Far Eastern ‡	112.80	...	+1.10	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	137.90	...	+0.90	0.27
Intl Gwth ‡	124.50	...	-0.90	1.12
Japanese ‡	66.25	...	+0.20	1.50
North Amer ‡	148.60	...	-2.40	0.27
Smaller Cos ‡	106.40	...	+2.10	0.87
Special Sits ‡@	46.11	...	-0.05	1.61
UK Equity Inc ‡@	87.00	...	+0.41	4.57
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	66.89	...	+0.39	2.89
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	75.99	...	+0.39	2.74
UK Growth ‡@	78.83	...	+0.32	3.48

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	916.89	...	-15.74	0.98
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	737.59	...	-12.70	0.99
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1129.02	...	+3.77	2.53
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	721.34	...	+2.41	2.61
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	265.31	...	+1.48	3.39
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	122.51	...	+0.68	3.46
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	287.51	...	+0.55	2.47
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	177.67	...	+0.35	2.46
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	680.40	...	+3.80	3.33
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	349.72	...	+1.96	3.40
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	138.16	...	+0.61	...
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	107.68	...	+0.48	...
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	500.84	...	+4.21	2.88
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	315.20	...	+2.65	2.96

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	240.21	...	-0.73	0.61
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	259.09	...	+0.03	3.28
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	101.32	...	+0.01	3.35
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	1.19
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	1.58
Income Acc ‡@	674.29	...	+2.47	...
Income Inc ‡@	281.99	...	+1.03	...
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	125.18	...	+0.35	4.17
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	138.29	...	+0.74	4.45
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	62.22	...	+0.33	4.60
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	138.29	...	+0.74	4.45
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	62.22	...	+0.33	4.60

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	916.89	...	-15.74	0.98
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	737.59	...	-12.70	0.99
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	...
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	...

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	...
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	434.16	...	+3.27	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	192.71	...	+0.09	2.57
High Income Inc ‡@	306.42	...	+0.62	...
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	398.93	...	+1.96	1.78
Income Inc ‡@	1200.59	...	+3.75	1.37
Money Acc ‡@	91.46	...	+0.01	0.34
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	91.05	...	+0.13	5.03
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	838.24	...	+5.62	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1355.30	...	+3.21	0.35
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	640.70	...	-7.73	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	725.17	...	+15.84	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	369.53	...	+1.06	2.09
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	233.38	...	+0.67	2.12
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	128.30	...	+1.06	0.64
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	135.86	...	+1.13	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	312.40	...	+1.05	2.48
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	67.25	...	+0.23	4.02
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	109.77	...	+0.37	4.56
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.93	...	+0.23	6.60
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	150.30	...	+2.06	1.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	178.90	...	+0.47	...
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	71.75	...	+0.19	...
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	235.66	...	-2.25	0.43
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	304.46	...	-2.65	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1185.25	...	-1.49	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	181.16	...	-0.60	0.59
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	312.11	...	-1.64	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	241.42	...	-1.27	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	279.13	...	+3.42	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	165.23	...	+0.24	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2534.58	...	+9.19	2.21
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4702.88	...	-5.87	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4218.19	...	-5.27	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1253.82	...	+5.16	1.87
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	449.46	...	+1.85	1.92

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	113.80	...	...	1.81
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	80.61	...	-0.17	6.79
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	276.60	...	+0.80	3.13
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	137.20	...	+0.30	3.19
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1164.00	...	+34.00	...
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	195.70	...	+2.70	...
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	282.20	...	+1.70	...
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2143.00	...	+13.00	1.33
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.72	...	+0.04	5.28
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4378.00	...	+1.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	65.53	...	...	3.46
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	2757.00	...	+24.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	110.35	...	+0.63	3.13
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	161.20	...	+0.20	...
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	252.40	...	-1.10	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	145.40	...	-0.20	2.45
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	184.40	...	-0.20	2.41
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	202.30	...	-0.10	1.49
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	55.51	...	-0.04	1.51
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	102.90	...	...	3.48
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	163.90	...	...	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	136.20	...	-0.10	1.26
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1644.00	...	-22.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	...
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	...
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	1.03
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	1.14
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	1.14
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	2.07
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	2.03
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	...
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	...

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	0.34
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	32.49	...	+0.04	...
Distribution and Growth ‡@	94.91	...	+0.19	2.16
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	439.05	...	+0.63	...
European ‡@	2776.52	...	-1.61	...
Financial Opps ‡@	701.81	...	-4.50	0.66
Income Trust ‡@	499.82	...	+0.39	4.34
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	228.54	...	-0.97	2.14
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡	530.31	...	-2.96	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	334.34	...	-2.15	2.73
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡	376.18	...	-0.97	...
UK Growth ‡@	244.18	...	+1.76	...
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	198.43	...	+0.24	2.15

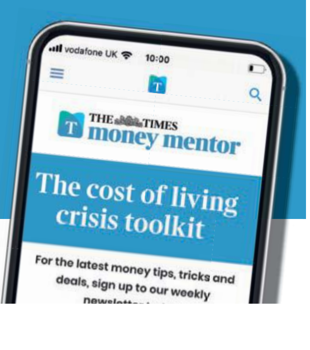
LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	498.70	...	+1.70	2.50
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	326.70	...	+1.10	2.56
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	128.60	...	-0.10	1.99
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	60.78	...	-0.03	2.02
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	...
Glob Health Acc ‡@	112.30	...	+0.70	0.66
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	84.86	...	+0.73	0.09
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	118.80	...	+0.40	5.57
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	67.55	...	+0.31	1.90
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	200.70	...	+1.70	3.34
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	333.60	...	+1.80	3.32
UK Index Dist ‡@	160.70	...	+0.90	3.40
US Ind Acc ‡@	818.00	...	+5.30	0.69
Worldwide Acc ‡@	332.70	...	+1.50	0.60

Tackle the cost of living crisis now

Sign up to Times Money Mentor's newsletter today for tips and tricks on how to fight back against price rises.

Find out more at thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor or scan the QR code



THE TIMES money mentor

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1447.82	...	+3.08	5.66

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	0.69

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	689.24	...	+1.56	5.31
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	78.87	...	-0.28	...
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.80	...	+0.12	5.91
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	122.24	...	+0.38	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	74.67	...	+0.39	3.85
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.75	...	+0.01	1.61
UK Select A Inc ‡	2722.81	...	+12.67	2.52

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	33.29	...	+0.03	3.38
Dividend Inc ‡	52.80	...	+0.14	6.06
Recovery A Inc ‡	106.08	...	+0.53	3.30
Sml Cos Inc ‡	344.87	...	+0.59	2.26

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	134.49	...	+0.65	2.52

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	85.15	85.15	+0.16	4.63
High Income Acc	235.80	235.80	+0.40	4.52
UK 100 Comp Acc @	437.20	437.20	+3.90	...
UK 100 Cos @	216.60	216.60	+1.90	3.38
UK Select Pflo @	326.40	326.40	+2.30	3.36
UK Selection Port Acc @	664.80	664.80	+4.70	...
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	934.80	934.80	+3.70	1.06
Wwide Mgd @	549.90	549.90	+2.20	1.07

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	760.56	...	+6.11	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	757.06	...	+6.07	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	915.31	...	+2.00	5.70
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	856.22	...	+1.87	5.90
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	914.27	...	+2.00	5.72
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	855.10	...	+1.87	5.92
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	928.05	...	+1.36	1.27
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	914.27	...	+1.34	1.28
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	926.98	...	+1.35	1.20
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	914.10	...	+1.34	1.21
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1290.06	...	-7.35	4.30
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1768.64	...	-10.09	4.26
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1381.92	...	-7.89	4.38
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13268.02	...	-91.65	0.96
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1487.31	...	-1.82	1.08
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3645.86	...	-25.19	0.96
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1424.58	...	-1.74	1.09
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	539.95	...	-13.10	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	539.95	...	-13.09	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	537.88	...	-13.05	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	537.88	...	-13.05	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1100.06	...	-2.45	1.03
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1217.57	...	-10.39	0.92
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1232.61	...	-10.53	0.72
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1099.74	...	-2.45	0.81
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1238.66	...	-10.57	0.92
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	116.84	...	-0.02	3.14
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	93.06	...	-0.02	3.18
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2485.85	...	-0.50	3.53
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1318.68	...	-0.27	3.62
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	908.54	...	+1.71	2.27
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	878.26	...	+1.65	2.30
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	905.03	...	+1.70	2.05
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	878.01	...	+1.65	2.08
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1459.95	...	-24.56	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	798.91	...	-7.03	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1554.53	...	-26.16	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	845.29	...	+36.50	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	...
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	227.40	...	+0.40	1.11
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	194.80	...	-2.00	5.97
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	251.80	251.80	+1.60	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	439.10	...	-4.30	3.45
UK Growth Inc ‡@	234.50	...	-2.30	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	1.42
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	...
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	...
Mutual Far Eastern	948.27	1000.81	+18.84	1.04
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1364.56	1440.17	+7.76	...
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	536.34	566.06	+2.88	3.40

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3314.00	...	+16.00	...

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	368.80	...	+5.20	3.39
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	184.90	...	+2.60	3.48

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	276.50	...	+0.20	2.14
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	103.20	...	+0.10	2.16
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	378.50	...	+2.80	...
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	224.40	...	+0.80	5.25
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.58	...	+0.23	5.39
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	366.60	...	+2.20	4.20
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	115.30	...	+0.70	4.30
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	184.20	...	+0.10	3.18
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	81.78	...	+0.04	3.24
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	188.30	...	+0.20	3.53
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2153.00	...	+1.00	2.60

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	407.10	...	+5.70	3.50
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	183.90	...	+2.60	3.59

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	...
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	...
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	125.30	...	+0.20	4.15
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	88.46	...	-0.08	1.26
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	49.93	...	-0.05	1.27
AAA Income Acc ‡@	96.21	...	-0.09	1.70
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	211.00	...	-4.00	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	151.50	...	...	3.22
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	51.18	...	...	3.28
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	245.20	...	+1.50	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	147.40	...	-0.40	1.01
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	194.70	...	-0.40	0.98
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	153.80	...	-1.60	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	138.30	...	+0.10	4.59
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	43.64	...	+0.03	4.70
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	362.50	...	-2.70	0.42
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	2.21
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	2.21
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	356.20	...	+0.50	2.04
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	219.70	...	+0.30	3.38
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	267.80	...	+0.80	4.50
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	73.67	...	+0.23	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	192.00	...	-0.10	1.56
UK Opps Acc ‡@	236.60	...	+0.10	0.69
UK Opps Inc ‡@	213.70	...	+0.10	0.69
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	807.20	...	+1.70	...

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries: 0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	132.53	...	+0.05	0.79
Balanced A Inc ‡@	118.82	...	+0.05	0.79
Cautious A Acc ‡@	109.31	...	+0.17	1.31
Cautious A Inc ‡@	95.11	...	+0.15	1.32
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	326.18	...	+0.29	0.50
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	294.64	...	+0.26	0.49
Growth A Acc ‡@	334.88	...	+0.20	0.70
Income A Acc ‡@	242.31	...	+0.03	1.30
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	...
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	...

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	117.29	...	+0.99	1.67

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	35.92	...	+0.01	4.28
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	77.04	...	+0.57	3.50
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	53.08	...	-0.03	2.21
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	52.99	...	-0.02	1.82
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	46.09	...	-0.18	1.34
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.24	...	+0.06	3.13
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	94.75	...	+0.92	3.64
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	88.48	...	+0.80	2.85
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	173.58	...	+1.23	1.95
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	66.30	...	+0.59	4.27
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	126.26	...	+0.42	1.61
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	342.95	...	-3.61	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	889.60	889.60	+3.10	0.67
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
108.20	100.11	Tr IL 1⅞% 22	100.11	− .02	1.93	−4.51
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	379.56	+ .06	1.43	−2.32
111.98	100.58	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	104.75	+ ...	...	−3.29
120.56	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	104.72	+ .13	...	−1.25
135.63	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	110.91	+ .27	1.23	−0.87
130.64	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	105.13	+ .42	...	−0.75
132.52	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	105.12	+ .44	...	−0.66
141.65	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	107.28	+ .73	...	−0.68
402.06	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	347.54	+1.74	1.86	−0.60
161.90	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	118.72	+ .78	1.05	−0.56
160.29	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	113.25	+ .72	...	−0.39
324.74	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	254.29	+1.29	0.96	−0.33
161.43	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	105.17	+ .19	...	−0.24
186.89	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	119.84	+ .07	0.99	−0.18
169.23	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	103.40	− .29	...	−0.08
186.19	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	111.73	− .42	...	−0.05
180.53	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	103.01	− .58	...	−0.04
199.86	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	113.06	− .80	0.55	−0.03
188.86	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	101.89	− .93	...	0.04
196.96	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	101.40	−1.20	...	0.06
229.64	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	116.38	−1.60	0.66	0.09
209.00	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	101.08	−1.56	...	0.08
232.71	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	112.12	−1.63	...	0.05
231.36	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	106.71	−1.67	...	0.02
306.14	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	141.92	−1.94	0.97	−0.02
248.27	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	105.90	−1.57	...	−0.05
256.47	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	105.01	−1.66	...	−0.02
297.03	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	116.84	−1.80	...	−0.05
309.47	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	111.53	−1.78	...	−0.14
335.00	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	113.59	−1.65	...	−0.16
395.45	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	127.08	−2.19	...	−0.36

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
145.94	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	107.18	+ .31	3.97	3.57
112.70	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	78.55	+ .28	...	3.64
162.05	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	113.26	+ .37	4.19	3.65
103.53	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	69.29	+ .24	...	3.65
155.95	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	107.04	+ .31	3.97	3.68
159.16	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	107.43	+ .30	...	3.68
106.42	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	67.65	+ .25	...	3.63
147.71	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	94.03	+ .09	...	3.66
169.96	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	111.90	+ .22	4.02	3.66
154.93	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	97.84	+ .11	...	3.64
175.82	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	110.01	+ .23	3.86	3.62
99.79	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	57.44	+ .15	...	3.59
114.76	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	66.23	+ .18	...	3.57
122.26	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	69.91	+ .18	...	3.52
185.65	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	111.77	+ .25	3.80	3.57
95.59	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	49.66	+ .16	...	3.45
220.50	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	102.17	−1.63	...	0.05
111.21	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	59.83	+ .17	...	3.47
180.27	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	105.05	+ .28	...	3.48
120.44	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	63.56	+ .21	...	3.43
124.61	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	65.92	+ .30	...	3.38
205.69	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	116.96	+ .49	3.63	3.39
132.79	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	69.16	+ .49	...	3.24
213.01	87.32	Tr 4% 60	116.45	+ .71	...	3.24
96.16	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	42.47	+ .64	...	3.02
173.16	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	85.61	+ .95	...	3.11
219.03	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	109.17	+1.22	...	3.12
149.85	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	65.67	+ .84	...	2.96

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
100.82	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	98.50	+ .01	...	2.98
103.36	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.21	+ .01	...	3.25
99.44	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	96.45	+ .04	...	3.15
101.61	94.79	Tr 1% 24	97.12	+ .05	...	3.07
106.44	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	99.24	+ .06	...	3.18
114.71	100.77	Tr 5% 25	104.02	+ .06	4.81	3.18
100.93	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.95	+ .08	...	3.11
105.86	93.15	Tr 2% 25	97.14	+ .09	...	3.07
98.77	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.90	+ .10	...	3.13
104.87	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	94.15	+ .11	...	3.20
104.30	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	91.18	+ .13	...	3.30
121.98	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	103.92	+ .13	4.09	3.40
97.74	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	84.85	+ .18	...	3.32
107.51	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	91.15	+ .21	...	3.28
137.51	107.13	Tr 6% 28	114.10	+ .29	5.26	3.40
99.47	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	83.99	+ .24	...	3.38
102.36	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	85.21	+ .26	...	3.28
97.81	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	79.79	+ .29	...	3.29
136.04	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	110.59	+ .33	4.30	3.25
95.84	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	76.90	+ .33	...	3.33
102.46	73.06	Tr 1% 32	81.28	+ .32	...	3.38
135.62	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	107.77	+ .48	3.94	3.29
101.40	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	77.16	+ .40	...	3.44
144.81	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	110.28	+ .62	4.08	3.43
96.74	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	70.44	+ .51	...	3.53

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/−	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
117.13	108.58	Tr 3¾% 21	115.83	− .08	...	1.24
142.92	135.65	Tr 8% 21	141.44	− .10	5.66	1.19
...	...	Tr 0½% 22	...		...	...
104.18	93.01	Tr 1¾% 22	102.71	− .11	...	1.37
99.93	98.87	Tr 0⅛% 23	99.43	+ .01	...	2.86
99.37	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.59	+ .06	...	3.29
99.30	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	89.40	+ .11	...	3.27

* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Markets

Emma Powell Tempus

Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



Supermarket giant in healthy shape

J SAINSBURY

Market cap	Half-year profit
£5.2bn	£376m

The challenges posed by rampant inflation might be J Sainsbury's best chance in almost a decade in levelling the playing field against arch-rival Tesco — at least that's what investors seem to think.

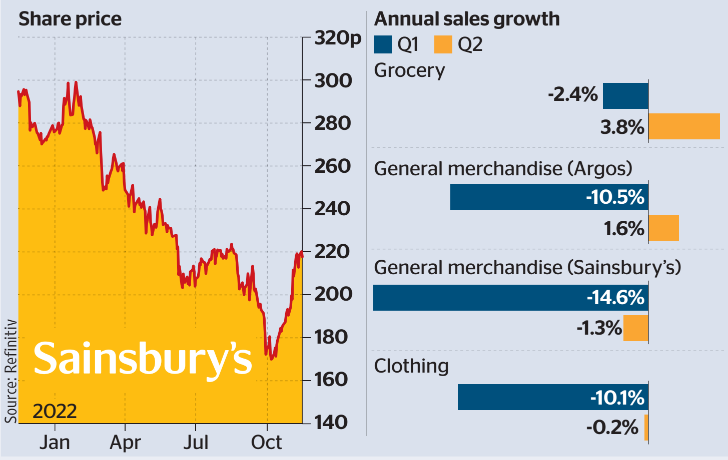
Sainsbury's has long attracted a more lowly valuation than Tesco, Britain's largest supermarket. A longer-term record of weaker sales growth and the greater exposure to discretionary spending that came with the chain's acquisition of Argos are two reasons for this inferiority in the eyes of investors.

Yet the discount between the two FTSE 100 constituents is now the slimmest it has been since 2014, when Tesco became embroiled in an accounting scandal. An enterprise value of just under five times forecast earnings before taxes and other charges is closing in on the 5.8 figure attached to Tesco, despite shares in both companies declining in price since the start of this year.

There is some good cause for the laggard Sainsbury's finding more favour with investors. The grocer has been historically slower than Tesco in reducing its cost base, but that now gives the orange-bannered supermarket an additional line of defence against elevated energy, wage and freight expenses.

More crucially, savings derived from cost-cutting, including reducing the standalone Argos store estate and integrating its Argos and Habitat logistics and supply chains, have helped to limit the increase in prices, according to the grocer. A three-year savings programme completing in 2024 will wipe more than £1.3 billion from the cost base — more than analysts had expected. Double-digit inflation remains the biggest uncertainty to hang over whether Sainsbury's meets profit expectations this year. At the start of this month, Simon Roberts, its chief executive, reiterated guidance for adjusted pre-tax profits of between £630 million and £690 million for the 12 months to the end of March next year, lower than the £730 million recorded last year.

Playing catch-up



ADVICE Hold
WHY The pressures of cost inflation and weaker sales volumes are reflected in the market's lower valuation

Pressure on profits this year is unavoidable, even without the post-pandemic comedown. Like its peers, Sainsbury's is battling elevated freight, wage and energy costs, as well as attempting to remain competitive on prices. Hedging roughly 75 per cent of its energy costs for the 2023-24 financial year is one source of relief on margins.

For the 14 weeks ending September 17, the chain reported a 3.7 per cent increase in like-for-like sales on the back of higher prices, which also helped to limit the decline in sales over the entire 28-week period to 0.8 per cent. But lower sales volumes and higher operating costs amplified the decline in underlying pre-tax profits for the core retail business by 8 per cent.

Those figures do not reflect the real impact of higher energy bills on consumers, meaning Sainsbury's, like its peers, could suffer weaker sales volumes than anticipated in the coming months. Nielsen data shows sales growth for the four weeks to November 5 came in at 5.1 per cent — better than Tesco, Morrisons and Waitrose, but behind Asda: all down to price, not increasing volumes.

Analysts at house broker Shore Capital forecast flat adjusted profits for the 2024 financial year, with cost savings absorbing the persisting pressures of inflation on margins.

The optimistic take? Once inflation settles, a typically fixed cost base could allow profits to recover more quickly on the back of an improvement in sales volumes and more meagre price rises. Analysts have forecast adjusted pre-tax profits of £665 million over the 12 months to the end of March 2025, ahead of the £586 million prior to the pandemic.

The shares look cheap, but then investors expect to be compensated for heightened uncertainty.

WORKSPACE GROUP

Dividend yield	Net asset value per share
4.5%	980p

Flexible office space provider Workspace Group is priced for catastrophe. The FTSE 250 constituent's shares have fallen 40 per cent since the start of this year, a discount of close to 50 per cent to the net asset value forecast by analysts for the end of March.

Not even a resilient showing during the six months to the end of September could soothe the bears. The underlying value of assets edged 0.8 per cent ahead, driven by a 7.5 per cent rise in the estimated rental value per sq ft. That offset a slight outward movement in the yield — rental income expressed as a percentage of the portfolio value — attached to the portfolio. Occupancy is back to pre-pandemic levels, rising to just under 90 per cent for Workspace's existing portfolio; rents were 4 per cent higher but are still lagging behind 2019 levels.

The question now is how much more scope there is to push rents forward in the face of the elevated inflation that stands to squeeze smaller businesses, Workspace's core tenant base, more tightly. Lettings totalled 96 in October, down on the 134 secured in September and the 135 in October last year.

Liquidity should not be an issue in the near term. Capital expenditure is expected to be about £50 million this year and roughly the same in 2023.

The property group has cash and undrawn debt facilities totalling £263 million and expects to generate an extra £200 million from selling the non-core industrial assets that accompanied its takeover of McKay Securities this year, as well as the residential properties that form part of a mixed-use redevelopment in south London. A buyer for the latter has already been secured.

Workspace's business model has an advantage over London-listed IWG, owner of the Regus brand, and WeWork: the group owns all of the properties it lets out to businesses. This removes the mismatch between short-term leases agreed with customers and long-term liabilities owed to properties' freehold owners.

Workspace might struggle to push earnings much further ahead over the next 18 months but the risks to occupancy and rent prices are already compensated for in the shares' steep discount.

ADVICE Hold
WHY Further recovery in the NAV might prove difficult as recession looms

NEWS IN BRIEF

Courier boss ousted

The struggle for control of the board of DX, the Aim-listed courier, appears to be over for now after the company's chairman was ousted by its largest shareholder. Ron Series, 71, chairman of DX for the last five years has been the butt of a series of accusations from Gatemore Capital, including that he "severely harmed it". Series quit after a meeting demanded by Gatemore. He was replaced by Mark Hammond, 54. The shares put on another 3p to 28p, valuing the company, which employs 3,700 people, at £150 million.

Google privacy payout

Google will pay $391.5 million to settle allegations about how it collects data from users in the largest privacy-related multi-state settlement on record. The technology group tracked the location of users who opted out of location services on their devices, 40 US states said. A Google official said: "Consistent with improvements we've made in recent years, we have settled this investigation, which was based on outdated product policies we changed years ago."

Gupta's $5bn debt plan

Sanjeev Gupta, the steel tycoon, is nearing an agreement to restructure the $5 billion debt his steel company owes to collapsed lender Greensill Capital. Gupta's Liberty Steel Group has said it is close to restructuring its debts to lenders. The company has been trying to negotiate a deal since Greensill Capital collapsed in 2021. Liberty Steel's progress in negotiations has delayed winding up proceedings due this month. Liberty Steel said the proposed deal was a "major step forward".

FinnCap talks extension

Panmure Gordon, the City broker controlled by Bob Diamond's Atlas Merchant Capital, has been given more time to submit a formal offer for its rival finnCap. Under City takeover rules Panmure had until 5pm yesterday to either make a firm bid or walk away from finnCap, which is listed on London's junior Aim market. But talks between the two sides are continuing and the Takeover Panel, which regulates deal activity, has agreed to extend the deadline to December 13.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33592.92 (+56.22)
Nasdaq Composite	11358.41 (+162.19)
S&P 500	3991.73 (+34.48)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	27990.17 (+26.70)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	18343.12 (+723.41)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	716.43 (+9.76)
Sydney	
AO	7345.40 (-4.80)
Frankfurt	
DAX	14378.51 (+65.21)
Singapore	
Straits	3275.28 (+14.48)
Brussels	
BEL20	3667.12 (-4.65)
Paris	
CAC-40	6641.66 (+32.49)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11026.22 (+26.63)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	3915.09 (+27.58)
London	
FTSE 100	7369.44 (-15.73)
FTSE 250	19455.88 (-166.37)
FTSE 350	4094.09 (-12.71)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3363.43 (+14.73)
FTSE All-Shares	4055.88 (-12.05)
FTSE Non Financials	4965.01 (-15.94)
techMARK 100	6252.76 (+24.95)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.1829 (+0.0081)
Euro	1.1455 (+0.0070)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	77.29 (-0.28)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	123.76 Sep (2015 = 100)
RPI	347.60 Sep (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Dec 22	104.52	105.26	104.00	104.97	241987	443746
	Mar 23	101.49	101.49	101.49	102.92	1	14
3-Mth Sterling	Dec 22	98.820	98.825	98.790	98.806	7310	347378
	Mar 23	98.785	98.795	98.755	98.771	8310	229855
	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
3-Mth Euribor	Dec 22	97.735	97.770	97.735	97.760	87859	714296
	Mar 23	97.110	97.180	97.100	97.160	98422	579804
	Jun 23	96.905	96.990	96.895	96.970	95723	477854
	Sep 23	96.895	96.985	96.880	96.970	88677	415323
	Dec 23	96.975	97.070	96.955	97.055	92317	386102
3-Mth Euroswiss	Dec 22	100.61	100.62	100.59	100.62	488	22748
	Mar 23						
	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
FTSE100	Dec 22	7357.0	7415.5	7347.0	7363.0	91916	557901
	Mar 23	7395.0	7408.0	7360.0	7361.5	9	2290
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 22				5316.0		
	Mar 23				5334.5		

Tradeweb
© 2021 Tradeweb Markets LLC. All rights reserved.
The Tradeweb FTSE Gilt Closing Prices information contained herein is proprietary to Tradeweb; may not be copied or re-distributed; is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and does not constitute investment advice. Tradeweb is not responsible for any loss or damage that might result from the use of this information.

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	94.53	+0.92
BFOE(Feb)	92,90	+0.72
BFOE(Jan)	93.96	+0.93
WTI(Feb)	86.25	+1.09
WTI(Feb)	85.52	+1.16

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	844.00	846.00	-20.00
Gasoil EEC	971.00	972.00	+62.25
3.5 Fuel Oil	398.00	401.00	-1.00
Naphtha	691.00	693.00	+6.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Dec	990.50-990.25	Mar	940.00-938.25
Jan	981.75-981.25	Apr	921.50-906.00
Feb	962.00-961.50		Volume: 571693

Brent (9.00pm)

Jan	93.28-93.26	Apr	90.28-90.24
Feb	92.21-92.19	May	89.35-89.30
Mar	91.23-91.20		Volume: 1976599

LIFFE

Cocoa

Dec	1998-1997	Mar	1835-1793
Mar	1953-1952	May	1888-1800
May	1902-1895	Jul	1880-1815
Jul	1886-1875		
Sep	1899-1800		
Dec	1944-1849		Volume: 90741

RobustaCoffee

Nov	2160-1845	Jul	1820-1773
Jan	1800-1799	Sep	1807-1740
Mar	1786-1784		
May	1795-1777		Volume: 15042

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	522.90-522.40
		Oct	503.50-500.50
Dec	585.00-532.10	Dec	495.90-494.30
Mar	552.10-551.50	Mar	487.70-485.90
May	542.50-540.10		Volume: 65167



Aston Martin in reverse over fundraising threat



***Jessica Newman* Market report**

For much of the past year Aston Martin Lagonda has often found itself languishing towards the bottom of the FTSE 250 performance table. Another drop came yesterday as analysts at Jefferies warned that the struggling carmaker could try to extract yet more cash from embattled investors, despite having raised £653 million via a placing and rights issue just months ago.

"Aston Martin still screens as a candidate for future recapitalisation by the time the business achieves a viable operating structure, possibly 2024," Philippe Houchois, an analyst at the bank, said, as he issued an "underperform" rating and shaved the stock's target price from 530p to 120p.

Houchois and his team noted that even if investors think another car manufacturer could step in and provide the scale the company is missing, they are not convinced that Zhejiang Geely, the Chinese carmaker owned by Aston's third biggest shareholder, "fits that profile".

Aston's shares, which have come down a long way since its ill-fated £4.3 billion flotation at £19 apiece, slid 10p, or 7 per cent, to 133p.

London's wider markets lagged behind their European peers as gloomy economic data drained investor confidence. The FTSE 100, hampered by a weaker dollar, closed down 15.73 points, or 0.2 per cent, at 7,369.44, while the more UK-focused FTSE 250, finished down for the first time since Wednesday at 19,455.88, a fall of 166.37 points, or 0.9 per cent.

After a sharp rise over the past three sessions **Ocado** succumbed to profit-taking, causing the online grocer to prop up London's senior share index, closing down 155½p, or 16.8 per cent, at 770¼p.

Vodafone was another big blue-chip faller as the telecoms giant cut its full-year outlook after higher costs took their toll on first-half profits. The shares, hovering at 20-year lows, fell 8¼p, or 7.9 per cent, to 96p.

B&M European Value Retail was under pressure as analysts at Numis downgraded their recommendation on the discounter from "buy" to "hold" on the back of last week's interim results. Analyst Simon Bowler reckons that while a more confident consumer could support a stronger top line, "if that outcome does come to pass we feel there are more geared and interesting ways to play it than through B&M". The shares dipped 10¾p, or 2.7 per cent, to 392½p.

Other retailers on the sale rack were **Asos**, slipping 37p, or 4.7 per cent, to 756p, and **Moonpig**, which shed 8p, or 4.5 per cent, to 172¼p.

Investors in **Ninety One**, the FTSE 250 asset manager, took fright as it warned of challenging market conditions for the "foreseeable future", sending its shares down 11p, or 4.9 per cent, to 209¼p. Clients pulled £3.2 billion from the group's funds in the first half of the year, leading to an 8 per cent fall in assets under management to £132.3 billion.

Hopes that the government's windfall tax on energy companies will not be as bad as the City feared sent London's listed power generators higher. **Centrica**, which also launched a share buyback programme yesterday, gained 3p, or 3.4 per cent, to 86¼p, while **Drax** moved up 16½p, or 3 per cent, to 564p.

Not far behind was **Melrose**, the aircraft parts maker, which rose 4¼p, or 3.3 per cent, to 131½p, after stating trading was in line with expectations.

Elsewhere, **Made Tech**, the Aim-listed technology services firm, settled at a two-month high, rising 1½p, or 5.9 per cent, to 27p after securing a Home Office contract. But **James Cropper** tumbled 90p, or 9.8 per cent, to 825p as the paper company slashed its full-year profit forecast.

Wall Street report

News that producer price rises had slowed raised hopes of smaller rate increases, lifting indices. The Nasdaq was up 162.19 points, or 1.5 per cent, at 11,358.41. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 56.22 points, or 0.2 per cent, to 33,592.92.

INSURANCE

Beazley seeks to raise £385m

Lloyds of London insurer Beazley plans to raise about £385 million that will be used to fund "attractive" underwriting opportunities.

The FTSE 250 group was issuing nearly 61 million shares at 5p apiece in an accelerated bookbuild handled by JP Morgan and Numis and launched after the stock market closed last night. It represents about 10 per cent of the company's existing share capital.

The company said the fundraising will support "organic growth," adding that the "market dislocation in select insurance classes gives us a strategic opportunity to accelerate our growth trajectory and increase net premium exposure in areas where we believe we can deliver outsized returns, namely cyber and specialty business."

The insurer covers everything from cyberattacks and terrorism to natural disasters.

Last week it was reported that gross premiums written had increased by 22 per cent year-on-year to $3.98 billion in the nine months to September 30 from $3.27 billion in 2021, boosted by growth in its cyber business.

The shares closed down 7p, or 1.1 per cent at 625p last night.



Beazley operates at Lloyd's, the biggest insurance marketplace

Gear4Music misses beat in summer

Gear4Music, the musical equipment retailer, has swung to a loss as higher expenses and a cost of living squeeze impacted consumer confidence (Emma Taggart writes).

The online retailer reported a statutory pre-tax loss of £1 million in the six months to the end of September, compared with a profit of £1.9 million in the same period a year ago. Revenue rose 2 per cent to £66.3 million from £64.7 million previously.

New distribution centres in Europe helped to boost international revenue by 10 per cent but the UK, which accounts for more than half of total revenue, fell by 3 per cent. The York-based company attributed this decline to a more normal trading environment post-Covid and a strong comparative in the first half.

Gear4Music, which was listed on London's junior AIM market in 2015, reported a 32 per cent decline in the number of website visitors to 9.1 million during the six-month period, offset by both a higher conversion rate and a rise in the average order value.

The company faced tough market conditions in July and August, with unusually hot weather hurting sales as people spent more time outdoors.

Gear4Music said it stood by its full-year earnings guidance, including a pre-tax profit of £1.1 million.

Andrew Wass, founder and chief executive, said it had "seen a consistent improvement in trading momentum during the last two months, despite continuing macro volatility". The shares closed up by 4½p, or 4.7 per cent, at 100½p, valuing the company at £22 million.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Card Factory Lifts profit guidance	15.4%
DX Group Strong annual results	12%
Carnival Extends gains	4.3%
Centrica Share buyback commences and windfall tax fears ease	3.4%
Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Tracks Wall Street higher	3.1%
Ninety One Warns of challenging market	-4.9%
Aston Martin Lagonda Jefferies downgrades to "underperform" rating	-7%
Vodafone Downgrades full-year outlook	-7.9%
James Cropper Cuts profit outlook	-9.8%
Ocado Profit-taking	-16.8%

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Nov	265.00	Jan	287.25	Mar	273.00
May	263.50	Jul	unq	Volume: 855	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8342.5-8343.0	8377.0-8379.0	8360.0-8370.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2212.0-2212.5	2218.0-2219.0	2203.0-2208.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
3143.0-3145.0	3127.0-3128.0	2992.0-2997.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2409.0-2410.0	2443.0-2445.0	2518.0-2523.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
29595.0-29600.0	29690.0-29700.0	30150.0-30200.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
23790.0-23795.0	23400.0-23450.0	22120.0-22170.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Monday.

Bullion: Open $1769.42
Close $1771.98-1772.20 **High** $1785.97
Low $1766.61
AM $1757.35 **PM** $1768.90
Krugerrand $1753.00-2848.00 (£1475.30-2396.84)
Platinum $1018.00 (£856.74)
Silver $21.51 (£18.10)
Palladium $2082.50 (£1752.61)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	2.96	3.51	4.09	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 3.00 ECB Refi 2.00 US Fed Fd 3.75-4.00

Halifax Mortgage Rate 5.74

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 2.758; 3 mth 2.910. Sell: 1 mth 2.170; 3 mth 2.500

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	2.9621	0.0000	3.5100	4.0878	0.0000
Eurodollar Deps	3.95-4.01	4.36-4.42	4.65-4.90	5.09-5.34	5.57-5.64

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.4487-8.5376	8.5119-8.5169	143ds	451ds
Euro	1.1480-1.1360	1.1447-1.1446	13pr	42pr
Montreal	1.5640-1.5895	1.5784-1.5786	9pr	20pr
New York	1.1741-1.2003	1.1882-1.1882	9pr	31pr
Oslo	11.737-11.879	11.813-11.833	42ds	83ds
Stockholm	12.252-12.413	12.393-12.396	216ds	909ds
Tokyo	164.54-166.19	165.58-165.59	48ds	162ds
Zurich	1.1084-1.1289	1.1218-1.1220	29ds	95ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.4755-1.4756
Canada	1.3284-1.3285
Denmark	7.1657-7.1662
Euro	0.9634-0.9634
Hong Kong	7.8198-7.8213
Japan	139.37-139.37
Malaysia	4.5350-4.5400
Norway	9.9452-9.9573
Singapore	1.3711-1.3713
Sweden	10.429-10.433
Switzerland	0.9442-0.9443

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	192.63-192.64
Australia dollar	1.7532-1.7534
Bahrain dinar	0.4446-0.4515
Brazil real	6.3346-6.3381
Euro	1.1446-1.1447
Hong Kong dollar	9.2918-9.2928
India rupee	96.183-96.183
Indonesia rupiah	18463-18495
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3648-0.3671
Malaysia ringgit	5.4023-5.4082
New Zealand dollar	1.9237-1.9241
Singapore dollar	1.6290-1.6293
S Africa rand	20.502-20.513
U A E dirham	4.3676-4.3700

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.756	+0.01
Canada $	1.582	+0.02
Denmark Kr	8.537	+0.09
Euro €	1.148	+0.01
Hong Kong $	9.307	+0.11
Hungary	467.432	+1.25
Indonesia	18484.921	+278.30
Israel Shk	4.060	+0.03
Japan Yen	165.653	+0.91
New Zealand $	1.930	+0.01
Norway Kr	11.866	+0.13
Poland	5.378	+0.03
Russia	72.274	+0.67
S Africa Rd	20.548	+0.27
Sweden Kr	12.414	+0.13
Switzerland Fr	1.124	+0.01
Turkey Lira	22.141	+0.31
USA $	1.190	+0.02

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note dividend yields are supplied by Morningstar. The yield is the sum of a company's trailing 12-month dividend payments divided by the last month's ending share price
12 month high and low Please note the 12 month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
624¾	89½	Aston Martin Lag	133	-9⅞	...	-0.8

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
263⅛	133	abrdn	197⅜	-7½	7.4	4.2
3266	1729	**Admiral**	2073	-47	7.3	10.5
88½	46½	ADVFN♦	47½	...	3.1	8.3
426¾	246⅛	AJ Bell	362¾	-2⅛	1.9	34.0
28565	21277½	Aon Corpn	24761¾	+274¾	0.5	60.4
41½	21½	Appreciate Group♦	41	-½	2.4	17.8
1030	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦	860	...	1.8	19.0
20	11	Argo Group♦	11	...	...	5.0
321½	180⅞	Ashmore Gp‡	245½	-3¾	6.8	8.3
1611	1185⅝	Aus New Z	1379⅞	-2¼	5.8	10.7
602⅞	373¾	**Aviva**	437⅜	-3⅜	4.8	57.5
290⅞	193⅜	Banco Santander	222¼	-1¼	2.8	5.3
2460	986	Bank of Georgia	2370	-65	...	7.3
217	135⅝	**Barclays**	157⅛	-⅜	1.9	3.8
½	⅛	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.3
359	277	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	298	...	0.8	8.2
42	7⅞	Braveheart Inv♦	9¼	-¼	...	0.2
517	266	Brewin Dolphin	515	+1	2.8	28.1
565	173⅞	Bridgepoint	234	-8½	...	14.6
82	40	Cenkos Secs♦	45½	...	7.6	9.2
325	256½	Chesnara	282	+4	7.8	15.6
68	31	City of Lon Gp♦	45	...	...	-3.0
530	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	418	+13	7.8	9.8
1452	894	Close Bros‡	1069	-12	5.6	7.9
317	211½	CMC Markets	268	+½	11.4	8.2
802⅞	491⅞	Commerzbk	700⅞	+19⅛	...	35.9
1260¾	662	Deutsche Bk	898⅞	+12	...	10.5
312¼	177⅝	Direct Line Ins	208⅞	+¼	10.6	8.6
59½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	4.3	7.7
1⅛	⅜	Drumz♦	⅞	...	...	-7.5
188¼	85½	EFG-Hermes Hldg	92⅜	+8⅜	...	5.9
379	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	135	+5	...	7.5
937⅛	660¾	FBD	860⅜	...	...	3.8
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	-2½	...	12.0
83½	59	Frenkel Topping♦	74	-¼	1.8	43.0
730	458½	Georgia Capital	730	+7	...	2.0
1005	710	Gresham House♦	767	+2	0.7	30.7
486	260	H&T Group♦	486	+1	1.7	15.5
52	33	Hansard Global	42	-½	10.6	14.4
1541½	740¾	**Hargreaves L**	909½	-21¾	4.2	16.2
195	143½	Helios Under♦	156½	...	1.9	...
567⅛	414	**HSBC**	480	-¼	3.3	10.4
847½	648	IG Group	815	-1	5.3	8.3
1482	500	Impax♦	755	+5	1.3	24.9
2379	953⅛	**Intermed Cap**	1219½	-23	4.5	7.0
142⅜	72⅜	IPF	75	-½	2.9	4.2
173¾	136	Intl Public Pntshp‡	153⅛	-2⅜	4.8	19.6
536¾	349¼	Investec	467¾	-7½	2.7	11.7
320	272	Investment Co	272	-8	0.3	9.7
123¾	52¾	IP Group	72¾	-2⅝	1.3	2.7
302½	94	Jarvis Securities♦	166	-6½	8.1	11.9
265	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	123⅞	-3½	13.8	4.6
95⅜	55⅞	Just Group	70	+⅛	...	...
580	346½	Lancashire Hdgs	564	-15½	2.0	...
307¾	204	**Legal & Gen**	246¼	-1⅞	7.2	7.5
52841¼	502⅝	Liberty Group	502⅝	-2⅝	...	...
2325	704	Liontrust	1170	-34	4.0	14.6
62	39½	Livermore Invs♦	39⅝	...	8.9	2.5
55⅛	39	**Lloyds Bkg Gp**	43⅝	...	5.8	6.0
36½	29¼	LMS Capital	30½	...	2.9	13.2
8582	6370	**Lond Stk Ex Gp**	7986	-36	0.9	81.6
227¼	159⅞	**M&G**	189¾	-⅛	9.6	59.3
274⅞	178¾	Man	218¾	+6½	3.8	8.7
17½	7½	Manx Fin♦	16½	-½	1.0	8.3
3⅜	2	Marechale Cap♦	2½	...	...	1.1
15301	12358⅞	Marsh McLn	13917¾	+24⅜	1.4	29.0
892½	530	Mattioli Woods♦	560	...	3.7	...
24½	12¼	Metal Tiger♦	14	...	...	5.4
132¾	69	Metro Bank	93⅞	-1½	...	-0.6
1897¾	1464	Nat Aust Bk	1736⅜	-43¾	2.7	17.2
283⅜	207⅝	**NWG**	250½	+1⅛	4.1	9.8
343	170⅜	Numis♦	186	+3⅛	6.4	3.7
599	375⅜	Onesavings Bank	469¾	-3¾	4.1	6.2
741	522	PayPoint	549	-2	5.8	17.2
14	¼	PCF Group♦	⅝	...	...	-0.3
701⅜	506¾	**Phoenix Gp**	567⅜	-1⅜	8.4	-6.5
381½	136¼	Provident	199	+7⅛	...	3.7
1509	797½	**Prudential**	1000	+5⅛	1.1	16.2
3½	1⅛	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅛	-⅛	...	-6.1
180¾	82	Quilter	106⅛	-1	4.9	75.8
182⅛	69½	Randall & Quilter♦	69½	...	5.5	...
2210	1518	Rathbone Grp	2030	-30	3.6	15.7
1⅜	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	3.0	1.9
1690	1370	Rockwood Strategic	1405	...	1.9	2.0
2900	1905	S & U‡	2195	+35	4.1	10.3
3	1⅝	Sancus Lending Grp♦	1⅝	...	...	-0.7
60¾	40¾	Schroder REIT	45½	...	5.5	4.8
748½	358¾	**Schroders**	467¼	+2¼	24.8	2.1
1731½	920	**St James Place**	1198	+½	5.1	22.8
638½	411½	**Stand Chart**	576¾	-⅜	1.5	12.9
16½	7¼	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
34½	22½	STM Group♦‡	29	...	4.8	11.1
4738⅜	3464¾	Sun Life Can	3882⅛	+24	3.4	9.9
10	3⅝	Tavistock Inv♦	7¼	...	0.6	1.2
2170	901	TBC Bank Group	2145	-40	1.6	6.2
20	7	Tern♦	9¾	+⅝	...	7.3
27	15¼	Time Finance♦	17¾	...	...	10.8
1350	900	Volvere♦	1025	...	...	...
51½	27½	WH Ireland♦	27½	...	...	15.4
33½	27	Walker Crips Grp	29½	...	2.5	84.2
5056⅞	3204⅞	Wells Fargo	3950½	+10⅞	1.4	10.8
1392¼	1083⅞	Westpac	1364½	+6¼	3.4	18.4
31⅝	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	23½	+½	...	73.4
40807	33557⅜	Zurich Fincl	37762⅞	-177⅞	4.3	14.7

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1477	1042	**3I Group**	1294½	+11	3.2	-13.1
368½	248¾	3i Infrastructure	336	-1	3.2	3.4
104½	83⅛	Abrdn Div I&G	96¾	-⅛	4.8	-16.9
1516	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1290	+6	2.7	-11.8
1084⅞	867¾	Alliance	999	-3	2.3	-3.3
536	352	Asia Dragon Tr	400	+6	1.5	-14.8
248	183½	Athelney Trust	200	...	4.8	-12.0
1118	169	AVI Global Trust	198¾	+¾	1.6	-9.3
420½	206¼	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	260½	+12½	1.9	-11.1
165¾	73½	Baillie Gifford Eu Gr	94¼	-⅝	0.4	-13.1
1038⅜	657	Baillie Gifford Jpn Tr	809	-11	0.7	-1.2
252	131¼	Baillie Gifford SN	160	+1	...	-8.0
246	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	164¾	+4¾	2.3	-17.2
150½	90⅞	Bankers	103⅛	-½	2.1	-5.8
5232	3610	BH Macro	4590	-75	...	11.5
1245	722¼	Biotech Growth	987	+3½	...	-5.5
151	93¾	BlckRck Com Inc	136½	-5	3.3	-2.4
140	114	BlckRck Fro Inv	132	+½	3.8	-10.6
732	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	490½	-4	1.3	-4.6
206	164	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	180½	+6½	3.8	-13.7
457	315	BlckRck Latin Am	385½	-½	4.6	-12.5
214	183¼	BlckRck Sustain American Inc	204½	-2	3.7	-4.0
2140	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1382	-8	2.5	-12.8
998¾	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	619	-3	1.9	-0.9
804⅞	524	BlckRck Wld Min	695	-9	7.5	1.4
26⅞	9	Blue Plan Int Fn#	11½	...	...	-4.4
340	256	BMO Cap&Inc	299	+5	4.1	-3.0
124⅛	68½	BMO Comm Prop	90	-⅜	3.3	-35.3
175⅛	122	BMO Glbl Smaller	149⅜	-1	1.1	-9.6
520	375½	BMO Priv Eq Ord	428½	+1½	3.5	-34.6
101	67⅜	BMO Real Estate	73	-⅛	3.3	-40.2
98	71	BMO UK HIT	80½	+½	6.5	-11.1
98	79	BMO UK HIT B	81½	...	...	-9.4
389⅝	294	BMO UK HIT UNIT	318	...	2.8	-11.6
1535	1072½	Brown Advsr US Smlr	1275	-12½	...	-11.5
1135	888	Brunner	1065	+27½	2.0	-10.8
4075	3015	Caledonia Inv	3900	+10	4.8	-22.5
191½	141	Invesco BondInc	162½	...	7.1	1.4
427	363¼	City of Lon IT	399½	-2	5.3	1.7
123½	96¾	Crystal Amber Fd	115	...	14.9	-17.4
555	452¾	Dunedin Entp	532½	+7½	2.6	-3.9
653½	537	Edinburgh IT	626	-1	4.1	-6.8
329½	154½	Edin Wwide	191	+2⅛	...	-11.0
324¼	268	EP Global Opp	318	...	1.4	-11.1
145	74½	European Assets	94½	-¼	9.6	-4.7
890	608	European Opp Tr	743	-3	...	-12.5
945½	767⅛	**F&C Investment Tr**	926	-1	1.4	-3.1
499	406⅛	Fidlty Asian Val	460	+3	2.9	-11.3
345	181⅞	Fidelity China Sp	220	+8	2.5	-12.9
384¼	256½	Fidlty Euro Val	324½	-2	2.3	-4.7
261	143	Fidlty Jap Tru	173	-¾	...	-8.3
311	232	Fidlty Spec Val	282	-5	2.4	-2.8
925	731¾	Fins Gwth & Inc	843	-8	2.1	-3.7
120⅛	85⅝	GCP Infrastructure	98	-1	5.8	-11.5
868½	552⅝	Gen Emer Mkts	628½	+½	2.0	-12.5
55	28½	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	36⅛	+¾	...	-11.5
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	149	-1¾	5.8	-3.2
222	166	Hansa Investment	180	-½	1.0	-41.5
222⅜	170	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	177	...	1.0	-42.6
2860	1986	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2400	+10	...	-43.3
168	120½	Hend Euro Foc	148¼	-¼	2.3	-11.9
185½	137¼	Hend High Inc	165½	-1½	6.5	0.7
1254	674¼	Hend Smlr	850	-9	2.9	-9.3
2600	1540	Herald	1892	-38	...	-10.7
457½	310	HgCapital Trust	376	+7	1.6	-17.8
184⅞	138⅞	HICL Infra	166¾	+¾	5.0	0.4
286	216	Highbridge Tactical	233	-1	...	-12.8
1300	928	ICG Ent Tr	1090	+6	1.1	-41.7
584½	370⅞	Impax Env Mkts	451	-6	0.7	2.8
366	280	Invesco Asia Tr	315	+7	4.7	-14.9
191½	141	Invesco BondInc	162½	...	7.1	1.4
176	111	IPST Bal	117	...	...	-24.5
250	200	IPST Gbl Eq	213	+1	3.0	-16.0
102⅝	93	IPST Managed	96	...	0.9	-9.8
199⅞	141	IPST UK Eq	156½	...	3.9	-13.0
624	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	434½	-1½	1.8	-13.7
800	650	JPM American	744	-9	0.9	-0.4
467⅛	294½	JPM Asia	353	+5½	4.9	-10.4
589	246½	JPM Chinese	327¼	+25¾	7.3	-12.0
778	610¼	JPM Claverhs	690	-2	4.9	0.7
105	99	JPM Elect Mg C	103	...	0.2	-0.3
1115¼	886¼	JPM Elect Mg G	970	...	1.8	-3.9
111	88	JPM Elect Mg I	97½	...	5.0	-3.2
138	91	JPM Em Mkts	105¾	+1¾	1.2	-10.9
575½	339	JPM Euro disc	411½	-9½	1.5	-10.6
150⅛	108	JPM GEMI	122	+2	4.2	-12.6
474	386	JPM GG&I	450½	-2	3.9	0.3
898	691¼	JPM Indian	850	-2	...	-18.8
532	301	JPM Jap Sml Co	338	+2	4.5	-7.4
705	408½	JPM Japan#	494½	-1½	1.1	-5.0
1375	735	JPM Mid Cap	938½	+3½	3.2	-8.9
108¾	85¼	JPM Multi-Ass Grw & Inc	94	+1½	4.5	-4.0
828⅝	55⅛	JPM Russian	85½	+2½	53.7	77.3
408	230	JPM Smllr Co	281½	-4	...	-10.4
340	174	Keystone IT	218½	+2	1.6	-14.6
829	649	Law Debenture	777	-4	4.2	2.2
143¼	99	Lowland	115¾	-½	5.2	-9.3
246	156¾	Majedie	195	+1¾	5.0	-21.2
435	272⅛	M Currie Port	316½	+1½	1.4	-2.3
121⅞	90	Marwyn Val In	95	...	5.5	-42.6
280	158¼	Mercantile IT	204	-2	3.4	-10.6
591	480	Merchants	554	-3	5.3	1.3
870	639¾	Mid Wynd	719	-3	1.5	0.8
1454	875	Monks Inv Tst	1022	+3	0.2	-7.5
226⅞	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	133⅜	-⅛	0.7	-11.4
928	715	Murray Income Trust	831	-5	4.4	-6.9
1348	1086⅜	Murray Int	1330	-4	4.5	...
90½	72⅝	Nb Global Floating	75	-¾	6.6	-5.5
370¼	286¼	Pacific Assets	362	+3½	0.5	-8.4
342½	229⅛	Pantheon Int	271	+3	...	-45.5
3125	2295	**Pershing Sq**	2900	-45	0.9	-32.5
511⅝	465½	Personal Assets	479½	...	1.4	1.2
2760⅞	1764	Polar Cap Tech	2020	+26	...	-7.3
203	143⅛	Prem Glb & Inf	160	...	3.9	-12.8
148½	112½	Renewables Inf	134¾	-2½	5.1	1.6
2787	1928	RIT Cap Ptnr	2290	-80	...	-2.0
750	454¾	Riverstone	690	+6	...	-39.2
528	366½	Schroder TotRt	424	+11	2.2	-6.3
616	446	Schrd Asia Pac	513	+13	1.9	-12.0
319½	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	288	-1	4.8	-1.4
224	185⅞	Schrod Jap Gwth	207	-3	1.9	-9.0
718	454	Schrod UKMid	564	-1	2.8	-11.8
34½	15	Schroder UK PP Tr	16	-¼	...	-47.8
546	434	Scot American	529	-3	2.7	2.6
1530⅛	670½	**Scot Mtge**	833¾	+25⅛	0.4	-8.8
242	207	Secs Tst Scot	228½	+½	2.6	0.7
108¾	75½	Sequoia Eco	91	-¾	6.9	1.0
255¾	195⅛	Temple Bar	233½	-3	3.5	-3.1
189¾	130	Tplton Emg Mkt	147	+2½	2.5	-13.2
⅜	⅛	Tiger Royal and Invest♦	⅛	...	...	87.5
507	263	TR Property	338½	-4½	4.6	-2.5
83	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	69⅝	-⅝	2.1	-1.4
260	154¾	Utilico Ord	164	+4	3.4	-34.5
227½	196½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	209	+1	3.3	-14.9
147	139⅝	UtilFin RdZDP 2022	139	-6	...	-5.5
783	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	500	-24	...	-12.2
257½	199¾	Witan	228½	-1½	2.5	-4.9
3770	2820	Ww Health	3335	-45	0.7	-5.6

Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
242½	133	Alumasc♦	151½	...	6.2	7.6
19¼	10⅝	Aseana Props	11¼	...	...	-5.6
71¾	48⅝	Assura Grp	56	-⅜	5.1	11.2
2⅜	1⅜	Aukett Swanke♦	2¼	...	...	-3.4
340⅜	215½	Balfour Beatty‡	300⅜	-⅜	1.5	14.2
760	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	404½	-3⅛	7.2	6.3
3363	1586½	Bellway	2043	-29	5.7	6.1
4903	3165	**Berkeley**	3777	-24	0.2	9.8
1724	987	Big Yellow Group	1177	-1	2.8	7.7
282	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	210	...	2.0	17.0
345	230	Boot (Henry)	240	...	2.2	12.8
556⅜	324¾	**Br Land**	396	-2⅛	3.8	54.2
160	110	Caledonian Tst♦	135	+5	...	26.9
179¼	95½	Cap & Count Prop	109⅞	-¾	0.4	32.3
65	43¾	Cap & Regnl	51	+1	...	-0.4
2550	1950	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	0.7	26.6
38½	18½	Carecapital♦	18½	-¼	...	-2.2
173	106	Clarke T	122½	-2	3.5	8.8
231	131⅜	CLS Hldgs	155⅜	-⅜	4.8	5.3
469	191⅝	Countryside Prop	229¾	+14	...	16.7
39⅜	6⅜	Craven House♦	7½	+1¼	...	-0.1
4002	2756½	**CRH**	3375½	+22	2.5	14.0
3528	1876	Derwent London	2440	-4	3.0	10.8
4¼	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¾	...	...	-2.6
36½	23	First Prop♦	24½	...	1.8	...
52½	36½	Fletcher King♦	43½	...	...	...
46⅝	27¼	Foxtons Group	34	-½	0.5	...
202½	145	Galliford Try‡	154	-½	3.0	34.2
646	252½	Genuit Group	314	-6½	2.8	19.0
804	360	Gleeson (MJ)‡	380	+4	3.9	5.9
1295	630½	Grafton Gp Uts	806⅜	-23⅝	4.4	9.3
319⅛	205⅜	Grainger	239¾	-2	2.2	14.8
741	409⅛	Gr Portland	558	-7½	2.2	-6.9
39⅞	17⅛	Hammerson	24⅞	-¼	1.6	-2.6
191	101	Harworth Gp	107½	-3	1.7	3.7
630	520	Heath (Samuel)♦	520	...	1.3	10.7
455	296½	Helical PLC	357	+11½	2.8	8.6
1065	875	Highcroft Invs	995	...	5.2	4.3
208⅛	148½	Ibstock	163¼	-1⅞	2.5	21.2
314	181	James Halstead♦	212	+8½	3.6	22.5
1000	591	Keller	709	+8	5.0	8.2
9328	3912½	Kingspan Group	5228	-81⅞	0.6	20.5
813⅛	485¼	**Land Sec**	616	-7¾	5.5	...
105	71½	Life Science Reit♦	75	...	...	...
25	12	Lon & Assoc	19	...	...	-2.5
285⅛	161¾	London Metric Prop	192	...	4.5	4.1
59½	37	Macau Prop Op	47	+½	...	-6.1
740⅝	225⅜	Marshalls‡	296¾	-4½	3.0	10.8
138	74	Michelmersh♦	81	+2	4.5	12.9
2540	1392	Morgan Sindall	1540	...	4.5	7.5
14750	11100	Mountview	11500	...	3.7	14.3
100	68¼	NewRiver REIT	72	+⅝	4.1	-2.5
297	195	Palace Capital	220½	+½	4.9	10.5
315	255	Panther Securities♦	310	...	3.8	2.8
2883	1138½	**Persimmon**	1322½	-12½	17.7	5.3
8	2¾	Pires Investments♦	2¾	...	...	-6.2
175	65	Plaza Cent	65	...	...	-0.2
153	98⅝	Primary Hlth‡	117	+⅛	5.3	11.9
40½	29½	Real Estate Invs♦	30½	...	12.3	3.9
709	372½	Redrow‡	455⅜	-5⅛	5.3	5.6
1418	794	Safestore	951	+1	2.1	5.3
1450	763½	Savills	951	-12½	2.4	9.5
7¼	5¾	Secure Property♦	5¾	...	...	15.2
1436½	694	**Segro**	841¾	+⅛	2.6	2.4
51⅝	27¾	SIG	31½	-½	...	...
98½	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	51	-⅛	...	...
144	66½	Sirius Real Estate	78¼	-⅜	4.1	6.1
161½	128½	Smart (J)	160½	...	2.0	4.3
49	26	Steppe Cement♦	49	-1	7.7	11.2
178	85	**Taylor Wimpey**‡	103⅞	+⅛	7.9	6.8
178½	128½	Town Centre	167½	+5½	2.0	6.6
1635	738	Travis Perkins	976⅜	-18½	1.2	9.5
249	125⅝	Tritax Big Box Reit	149½	...	4.3	2.7
118	58⅝	Tritax Eurobox	64¼	+⅞	...	...
414	184½	Tyman	219	-1½	3.6	8.6
1207	791½	**UNITE GRP**	955	+7	2.0	11.1
1225	519½	Vistry Group‡	655	-9	6.1	5.7
176¾	105⅜	Warehouse REIT	115⅜	-¾	5.3	2.7
887	343⅜	Workspace Grp	472⅜	-9⅛	3.7	-7.0
755	645	Wynnstay Props♦	670	+25	3.1	4.8

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
6¾	4	Agriterra♦	5	...	...	-0.6
30½	25	Airea♦	25½	...	...	9.4
952	670	Anglo-Eastern	800	-26	...	7.3
363	207½	Animalcare♦‡	235	-7½	1.7	...
2131	1237	**AB Foods**	1556	-6	0.4	25.7
133½	79	Bakkavor Group	92½	-⅞	7.1	9.6
588	432	Barr (AG)	475	...	...	16.8
5⅝	1¾	Bidstack Group♦	2⅞	...	...	-2.4
135	26½	Brand Architekts♦	26½	...	...	-1.1
3628	2530	**Brit Amer Tob**	3228½	-27	6.6	10.9
949½	707½	Britvic	761	-2	3.1	17.2
2063	1482	**Burberry Grp**	2033	+3	2.0	17.5
255¾	143⅞	C&C Grp	174	-3⅛	...	...
12	4⅜	Capital Metals♦	5½	...	...	-1.4
160	92	Carr's Grp	114¾	+¾	4.3	14.1
640	363	Character Grp♦	363	-7	2.4	6.4
1797½	1070	Churchill China♦	1265	...	...	...
2687	1460½	**Coca Cola HBC**	2008	-14	2.6	16.0
880	595	Colefax♦	655	...	...	11.5
3820	2586	Cranswick	3090	-28	2.2	16.3
228½	164	Devro	187	+2½	4.8	10.1
4103½	3343	**Diageo**	3614	-45	2.0	27.8
1⅞	⅝	Distil♦	⅝	...	...	17.0
1085	784	Evans (M.P.)♦	860	+2	3.2	7.3
102	66½	Finsbury Food♦	91	...	2.6	10.8
10090	1722	Games Workshop‡	7400	-110	3.4	20.3
1209⅛	846¼	Glanbia	943⅛	...	2.4	23.2
141	64	Greencore	70⅛	...	...	14.0
460	231	Headlam‡	280	...	2.7	12.0
1250	529	Hilton Food‡	551	-16	4.0	11.5
57	25½	Hornby♦	28½	...	...	...
2153	1486	**Imperial Brands**	2027	-11	6.8	6.7
1⅞	1⅛	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	...	...	7.9
10443⅞	7561¾	Kerry Gp	8222	+292¾	0.9	22.7
69⅜	15½	McBride	25	+1	...	-4.4
370	200	Mulberry Group♦‡	210	...	...	8.7
1540	1055	Nichols♦	1095	-22½	1.7	...
327	165	Norcros	196½	+11	4.1	6.2
381⅜	287⅝	Origin Ents♦	318	...	2.8	10.0
68	50	Pittards♦	62½	...	0.8	29.4
710	307½	Portmeirion♦	307½	...	4.2	13.0
1	⅝	Provexis♦	¾	...	...	0.3
214½	182¾	PZ Cussons‡	205	-1	2.9	23.6
200½	93½	REA	113½	...	...	-8.9
3¼	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1	...	...	0.1
660	235	Tandem♦‡	320	+35	2.7	4.5
1315	507	Treatt	641	-41	0.9	25.7
4½	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	3¼	...	...	-2.2
88	9½	Unbound Group♦	9½	...	...	...
4798	4010	Unilever (NV)	4619	+40½	3.1	23.7
4080½	3328	**Unilever**	4033½	+1	3.5	20.7
1210	317	Victoria♦	556	-2	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1907	739	Avon Rubber	1190	-9	2.4	...
367½	268½	Babcock	281⅛	-3⅛	...	-1.7
846⅛	528¾	**BAE Sys**‡	738½	+12⅜	3.2	13.5
2400	1600	Braime A N/V♦	2050	...	0.5	23.1
2490	1480	Braime Group♦	1750	+50	0.6	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	525	...	...	7.6
6½	3⅛	Cap XX Ld♦	3⅛	...	...	-6.7
374	279	Castings	354	+8	4.3	17.1
8⅛	4¼	Chamberlin♦	4¾	+⅛	...	-0.3
54	15½	Checkit♦	16½	...	...	-2.0
630	391	Cohort♦	427½	-7	2.6	38.0
296	158½	Crestchic Plc♦	279	-11	...	...
1760	1020⅜	Dewhurst♦	1150	...	1.1	13.2
371	232⅞	Dialight	307½	...	...	...
1789⅜	925⅛	Electrolux 'B'	1198⅛	-30½	5.4	9.0
250	91½	Feedback♦	91½	-1	...	...
1275	467½	Gooch Hsego♦	477½	+7	0.9	35.3
3625	2400	Goodwin	3290	+85	3.1	18.1
3216	1876½	**Halma**	2370	-49	0.7	34.3
1866	893	Hill & Smith	1092	-36	2.7	25.6
125	82½	Holders Tech♦	82½	...	0.9	5.0
3¼	¾	Image Scan♦	¾	...	...	4.8
1838	1071	IMI	1438	-8	1.5	19.6
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
8740	6090	Judges Scientific♦	7400	-500	0.7	37.3
81	60	LPA♦	74½	-½	...	...
798¾	732¾	Meggitt	798¾	+⅛	...	...
173½	95½	**Melrose**	131⅜	+4⅛	1.2	...
379½	217	Morgan Advanced‡	309	-3½	2.1	13.0
565	227½	Mpac♦	234	...	...	6.1
335	213	MS Intl♦	325	+1	1.0	46.4
2665	1720	Oxford Inst	2090	-30	0.8	28.5
3636⅛	1057¾	Philips El nv	1264⅛	-8¼	5.6	22.4
36½	12¼	PipeHawk♦	14½	-¼	...	30.8
101½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	31½	-½	...	-2.6
5235	3342	Renishaw‡	4052	+70	1.6	23.1
33½	20	Renold♦	23	-¼	...	8.2
145⅜	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	91	-⅜	...	61.9
3	1⅛	Ross Gp	1¼	...	...	-3.1
373⅜	229½	Rotork	285⅛	-3¾	3.0	31.0
214	137½	SDI Group♦	160	...	...	26.4
152	111	Senior	121	-2	...	21.1
74⅜	48	Severfield	56	-⅛	5.1	10.0
16¼	11¼	Six Hundred♦	13	...	...	76.0
1866⅞	1169¼	SKF B	1440⅝	-24⅞	3.9	10.6
270	175	Slingsby (HC)♦	270	+10	...	4.4
1629	1364	**Smiths**‡	1600	+8	2.3	25.4
1400⅛	946¾	Solid State♦	1255	-15	1.2	30.2
598	360	Somero Enter♦	380	-2½	4.2	8.4
3921	2458	Spectris	3227	-12	2.1	10.6
17135	9130	**Spirax-Sarco**	11760	-125	1.0	37.0
60	37	Surface Trsfms♦	42	...	...	...
3½	1½	Tanfield♦	3½	...	...	...
495	345	Thorpe FW♦‡	417½	-2½	1.3	29.0
4¾	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
112	48½	Transense Tech♦	92	+3	...	67.6
3500	2824	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+6	1.6	37.4
491	284½	Vesuvius	379⅛	-10⅛	5.4	10.1
1530	1060	Videndum	1278	-8	1.2	23.4
410	225	Volex♦	280½	-1½	1.2	15.3
1897	1328½	Weir	1742	-12	0.6	29.4
5300	1464	XP Power	2160	+10	4.2	11.5
185	111¼	Zytronic♦	132½	-2½	...	44.1

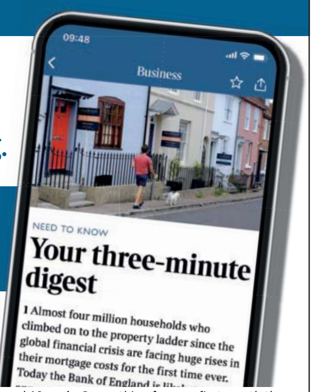
Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1750	1049	Abcam♦	1427	...	...	...
341	234½	AdvancedMedical♦	288	+½	0.5	45.2
36	14¼	Allergy Therap♦	15	...	...	...
156	46½	Angle♦	56	...	...	-7.6
710	370	Anpario♦‡	437½	+7½	1.8	23.0
11440	8191	**AstraZeneca**	10800	-68	1.9	...
46	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
245¾	166¾	**Convatec**	222½	-1½	1.8	51.9
110	34½	Creighton	35½	...	3.2	6.8
5365	2520	**Dechra Pharma**‡	2880	-50	1.4	43.0
1½	⅞	Deltex Medical♦	⅞	...	...	-5.2
48⅜	15⅜	e-Therapeutics♦	18	+¼	...	...
245	89½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	94½	-1½	1.0	11.4
83	30	EKF Diagnostics♦‡	42½	-½	2.3	12.0
46¾	24⅝	Futura Medical♦	38⅝	-1	...	...
5595	2234	Genus	3218	-32	0.9	57.2
1828½	1296	**GSK**	1354⅛	-10¾	5.9	15.6
1	⅜	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	4.3
316½	246⅛	**Haleon**	279	-2¾	...	...
2369	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1446	+14½	2.6	10.8
539	134½	Hutchmed China♦	197	+6	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	0.5	...
8	2⅜	ImmuPharma♦	2⅜	-⅛	...	-0.7
7025	1060	Indivior	1682	-11	...	96.2
131	73	Inspiration Health♦	83	...	0.7	12.8
69½	29	IXICO♦	29	...	...	9.2

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

Business news delivered straight to your phone.

Stay well informed wherever you are, whatever you're doing.



Try a digital subscription free for one month at thetimes.co.uk/trial

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

Offer available for new subscribers only. UK residents aged 18+ only. Pay nothing for your first month then £26 per month for the 7 day digital subscription. Visit store.thetimes.co.uk for full subscription T&Cs. This is not a time limited promotion. We reserve the right to change the subscription price with 30 days' notice.

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
501½	286⅜	Mediclinic Int	494½	+½	...	30.9
8½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	3	−⅛	...	-3.6
88.42	72.84	Novartis	79.66	+0.86	3.4	9.0
45¼	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2¾	...	...	-1.1
22½	5½	Ovoca Bio♦	6⅛	−⅜	...	-1.7
1506	297	Oxford Biomedica	334	+5	...	15.0
7	2	Physiomics♦	2½	...	...	...
5⅝	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	3⅝	...	...	...
6808	5450	**Reckitt Benck**	5672	+4	3.0	...
152½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	33½	−2½	...	-3.2
307½	97½	Sareum Hldgs♦	97½	+7½	...	...
1338½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1060	−4	2.5	24.0
254½	206	Spire Hcare	225½	−1	...	...
212½	16⅛	Synairgen♦	17¼	−¼	...	-0.7
½	¼	Tissue Regenix♦	½	...	...	-7.6
47½	27¾	Totally♦	31¼	+1¼	1.6	49.6
495	292	Tristel♦	330	−2½	1.9	68.0
42	10½	ValiRx♦	17	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
181	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	61	−3⅞	...	...
5988¼	3386⅞	BASF	4382⅞	−85⅜	6.3	8.6
5904½	3858	Bayer DM50	4654¾	+182⅞	3.6	54.3
375	46½	Biome Tech♦	76	...	...	-2.5
5⅛	1⅞	Byotrol♦	2	...	...	...
7¼	6¼	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
81⅜	50⅞	Coats Grp‡	67⅜	−1	2.0	15.0
10410	5908	**Croda**	7008	−66	1.3	30.5
1575	825	Cropper (James)♦	825	−90	...	25.1
146½	87⅝	Elementis	105½	−¾	...	...
36	13¾	Hardide♦	13¾	−¾	...	-2.6
2360	1721	Johnson Math	2110	−43	3.3	26.6
1950½	1309	**Mondi**	1568½	−3	3.2	11.9
97½	75	Robinson♦	85	...	6.4	...
401¾	241¾	**Smith (DS)**	313⅝	−3½	3.8	17.8
654⅛	443½	Swire Pacific	652⅝	+13⅞	2.4	...
28	11¼	Symph Environ♦	11½	...	...	...
513	88	Synthomer	143⅝	−11	12.0	2.9
2446¾	1822	Takeda Pharm	2317⅜	+29½	4.9	12.9
13½	4⅛	Velocys♦	4⅞	−¼	...	-6.1
2486	1576	Victrex	1770	−31	3.3	21.0
651	487½	Wynnstay Group♦	615	−19	2.4	14.1
448	233	Zotefoams	334	+4	1.8	20.0

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
358½	86⅛	888 Hldgs	101½	−2⅞	10.8	7.5
940	542	Accesso Tech♦	666	+6	...	17.5
740	370	Best of the Best♦	415	...	1.2	4.6
1588⅛	501⅜	Carnival	843¾	+34⅜	...	-1.3
140	95	Celtic♦	109	...	...	10.7
67	1⅞	Cineworld	4⅝	−⅜	...	-0.1
465⅛	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	283	−2	4.2	14.4
2025	1075½	**Entain**	1352	+2	...	30.2
12175	7614	**Flutter Ent**	11455	+25	...	...
37⅜	22	Gaming Realms♦	24⅛	+⅛	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
200	140	Heavitree A♦	140	−45	...	8.4
145	105	Hermes Pacific♦	145	...	...	...
5338	4193	**Intercont Htls**	4771	+12	...	44.6
1¼	⅞	Minoan Gp♦	1	...	...	-7.2
266¾	102	Mitch & Butlers	141⅞	−5⅞	...	...
312	92½	On The Beach	120⅜	+⅜	...	-6.3
1600	1180	PPHE Hotels	1265	+30	...	...
168	52⅜	Rank Grp	71	+1	...	9.5
106⅜	28	Restaurant Gp	36⅝	−1⅛	...	-6.9
35½	21½	Rotala♦	34½	...	...	...
40	15½	Sportech♦	17½	...	...	...
303⅛	184¾	SSP Group	221¼	−2½	...	-4.3
6¼	3½	Tasty♦	3½	...	...	4.7
305	47½	Tintra♦	220	−15	...	-3.8
294⅛	105⅜	TUI	154¾	...	...	-1.6
4¾	1¼	Webis Holdings♦	1¼	...	...	...
973	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	488½	−16⅞	...	-4.5
3276	2285	**Whitbread**‡	2548	−8	...	...
1660	870	Young & Co - A♦	1160	...	...	...
890	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	620	+10	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
½	⅛	7digital Gp♦	¼	...	...	-2.5
80	44½	Aeorema Comms♦	80	−7½	...	22.1
34½	20½	Altitude Group♦	21	...	...	...
130½	72	Arcontech Grp♦	83	...	3.3	11.4
448¾	176⅛	Ascential	227½	−4⅛	...	...
741¾	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	574	+½	0.8	28.3
475	328	Bloomsbury Pub‡	475	−1	1.8	19.5
11⅛	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	3½	...	...	-7.9
96	47	Catalyst Media♦	95	...	...	...
¾	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.3
1138	269	Daily Mail‡	270	−2½	8.9	10.3
195	100	DCD Media♦#	100	−30	...	5.0
71½	43	Ebiquity♦	43½	...	...	...
1466	829	Euromoney In Inv	1456	...	0.7	...
3830	1145	Future	1554	−39	0.1	26.7
1425	930	GlobalData♦	1275	...	1.3	63.1
115	46¾	Hyve Group	57	+2	...	...
288½	46½	IG Design Grp♦	102	...	8.5	14.9
624	464⅜	**Informa**	585⅜	+1	...	...
125½	55⅛	ITV‡	77¼	−2½	...	8.3
12½	7¼	Jaywing♦	8¾	−½	...	...
12¼	2½	Live Company Gp♦	3½	...	...	-0.7
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-6.5
51	34	Merit Grp♦	42½	...	...	...
74	30	Mirada♦	30	−2½	...	-1.3
70	42	Mission Group♦‡	46½	...	5.0	7.8
225½	167	Moneysupermarket	196⅞	+2⅞	5.9	20.0
2038⅝	1280	News Corp A	1546½	+18⅜	0.9	25.2
2051½	1307⅜	News Corp B	1564¼	+17⅝	0.9	25.5
1458	755	Next 15 Comms♦‡	1112	+14	0.6	...
970½	571¾	**Pearson**	963½	+10⅜	2.0	46.1
107	56¼	Photo-Me	107	+5	...	18.6
4⅛	2⅛	Primorus Inv♦	2¼	...	...	4.2
175½	102½	Quarto	124½	+2	...	6.9
340½	67	Reach	117	−1⅞	5.9	...
2⅛	¾	REACT Grp♦	1	...	...	14.2
2449	2071	**Relx**	2256	+8	2.1	29.7
800⅜	445⅜	**Rightmove**	566	+8½	0.8	32.0
155	87½	SpaceandPeople♦	90½	...	...	...
365	247	STV Group	258	+½	3.7	6.2
467	179½	System1 Group♦	179½	...	...	8.5
3767⅜	2412	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2615¼	+59¼	1.3	14.3
3429⅛	2275	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2466⅛	+46⅛	1.4	13.5
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	8.3
318	205	Wilmington‡	292	+2	2.0	18.5
1224	725¾	**WPP**	870⅜	−8⅛	3.0	16.5
123½	71	Zinc Media♦	81½	...	...	-5.1

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1¾	⅜	ADM Energy♦	⅝	...	...	...
5¼	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
60½	17¾	AFC Energy♦	18⅞	−⅝	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.5
1	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
120¼	68⅝	Alumina	93	+2¼	4.9	19.4
1¼	½	Aminex	⅞	...	...	-5.5
3⅞	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1¼	...	...	...
1239771⅛	8316	Anglo Amer Plat	8316	+139⅞	5.8	6.0
4170½	2547½	**Ang Am**	3344½	+25½	5.3	6.6
120½	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	94½	+3½	6.1	8.2
1781½	991½	**Antofagasta**	1400	−12½	3.8	14.4
5¼	2¼	Arc Minerals♦	3	...	...	2.2
4¾	2½	Ariana Res♦	3¼	...	...	4.5
⅞	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.5
5⅜	1⅜	Armadale Cap♦	1½	...	...	...
2⅞	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1	...	...	...
448	188	Atalaya Mine♦	295	...	9.9	3.7
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	⅛	...	...	...
17½	3⅞	Beowulf Mining♦	4⅛	...	...	...
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-1.8
3019	1868⅜	BHP Group	2514	+18	...	10.9
6⅞	½	Border & Sthn Pet♦	3	−⅛	...	...
50¼	14⅝	Bougainville	17⅝	+¼	...	...
4¾	2¼	BowLeven♦	2¼	...	...	-2.8
501¾	317⅝	**BP**‡	477	−3⅜	3.3	17.3
30⅜	8¾	Cadence Min♦	11⅜	+1⅛	...	1.1
3½	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	2⅛	...	...	30.5
1250	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1037½	...	3.2	10.1
253¾	179¾	Capricorn Energy	246¾	−1	...	1.9
5¼	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	4⅛	...	...	...
109¾	74⅜	Centamin	101½	−4½	5.0	15.7
284	200½	Cent Asia Metals♦	245½	−3½	6.5	7.1
21	9⅜	Chaarat Gold♦#	10⅞	...	...	...
23⅞	6⅝	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	15⅞	+½	...	...
11	3⅛	China Nonferr Gold♦	3⅛	...	...	...
⅝	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.7
37	21¼	Condor Gld♦	23½	−½	...	...
2	¼	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
7949¼	52¾	DRD Gold	52¾	...	7.2	6.2
1⅝	½	ECR Minerals♦	1⅛	...	...	-7.5
25½	10¼	Edenville Energy♦	11	...	...	-0.7
11¾	¾	Empyrean Energy♦	1	...	...	-7.8
2100	1461	**Endeavour Mining**	1656	−50	2.9	24.6
36½	17	EnQuest	27⅛	+½	...	1.7
30	4¼	Eurasia Mining♦	4½	−⅛	...	...
3½	1	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	11.1
323	97½	Ferrexpo	145⅝	−2⅞	9.8	1.1
986¾	622⅜	**Fresnillo**	857¾	−21½	2.8	20.3
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
41½	21	Galantas Gold♦	33	−½	...	-5.6
8⅛	3¼	GCM Resources♦	5½	−⅛	...	-4.6
72⅞	28¾	Gem Diamonds	29¾	−¼	6.1	3.1
37	15⅛	Getech♦	15¾	...	...	-3.7
541½	351⅞	**Glencore**	519½	+7½	1.7	19.0
⅞	¼	Global Petrol♦	⅜	...	...	-4.6
124914⅞	922⅜	Gold Fields	922⅜	−6⅝	2.8	14.2
12⅜	6⅝	Goldplat♦	12	...	...	9.1
13⅞	5⅛	Goldstone Res♦	5⅛	...	...	...
17	7¼	Greatld Gld♦	7⅞	−¼	...	...
120½	75	Griffin Mining♦	75	−½	...	8.2
310	168⅛	Gulf Keystone	200½	−4	4.1	12.5
530	298½	**Harbour Energy**	345⅝	+3	...	40.3
29½	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	9⅞	−⅝	...	0.8
173⅜	51½	Hochschild	69½	−¼	4.5	6.7
209⅜	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	94⅛	+2⅝	...	...
18¼	5	Hummingbird Res♦	6¾	+¼	...	-7.6
356½	144⅜	Hunting PLC	303	−1	1.9	-7.7
106½	12¾	IGas Energy♦	24	−1	...	-1.2
½	⅛	Independ Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
317	214	Indus Gas♦	260	+1	...	26.9
1¼	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.0
507	79⅞	ITM Power♦	100⅞	−1½	...	...
17½	11⅜	Jubilee Metals♦	11½	−⅛	...	9.6
3¾	1¾	Karel Diamd Res♦	2¼	...	...	-9.5
1¼	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	¾	...	...	-3.3
526	380½	Kenmare Res	449	+1	2.4	5.2
41	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
30¾	11⅞	Landore Res♦	17⅛	...	...	-3.8
⅝	⅜	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅜	...	...	...
24	14	Leeds Group♦	14	...	...	-2.2
6¼	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	6¼	...	...	...
20½	2¼	MC Mining♦	12¼	...	...	-2.5
1⅝	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1	...	...	1.7
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
9⅛	2	Nostrum O&G	2⅛	+⅛	...	...
242¼	215⅛	Oil Search	218⅞	−5⅜	0.1	60.3
¼	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅜	...	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.2
1	½	Ormonde Mining♦	⅝	...	...	-3.0
17⅛	7¼	Orosur Mining♦	10	−⅜	...	...
24	16	Pan African Res♦	18¼	−⅜	4.5	5.9
149½	67¼	Pantheon Res♦	72	−5½	...	...
79	34⅜	Parkmead Grp♦	61½	−½	...	-5.3
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	½	...	...	-5.0
134	60½	Petra Diamonds	100	+½	...	3.3
4	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-6.8
4¾	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	1¾	...	...	-8.5
157⅞	93⅛	Petrofac	125½	+3¾	...	-3.2
4⅜	½	Petroneft Res♦	¾	...	...	-2.2
24⅛	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	−⅛	...	1.6
7½	3½	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
10½	1¾	Plexus Holdings♦	2½	...	...	-0.6
1516½	92	Polymetal Intl	260	+5	37.5	...
772	499	Porvair	531	−3	0.9	20.4
11¾	2¼	Prospex Energy♦	10⅜	−½	...	...
24¾	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	11⅛	...	...	-2.0
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
3⅜	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	2⅛	...	...	-8.4
42½	3½	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	+¼	...	0.1
⅜	...	Reabold Resources♦	¼	...	...	-4.8
⅝	¼	Red Rock Res♦	¼	...	...	-2.0
7221⅛	4957⅞	Rio Tinto Ltd	6060¾	+23⅞	8.2	6.3
6225	4375½	**Rio Tinto**	5459	+52	9.2	5.7
41⅛	34	San Leon Energy♦	39⅜	+⅜	...	14.7
⅞	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	¼	...	...	...
77	22½	Serabi Gold♦	29	+1	...	3.9
450	183⅛	Serica Energy♦‡	308½	+16½	1.1	...
12½	6¾	Shanta Gold♦‡	9½	...	1.0	6.0
2526½	1556⅛	**Shell**‡	2375	+17	2.5	12.5
2⅞	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1	...	...	6.5
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	⅛	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-5.3
⅞	⅜	Thor Mining♦	⅜	...	...	-2.9
5180⅛	3525⅜	Total Eng SE	4974	−106¼	4.5	11.3
½	⅛	Tower Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-4.1
62⅛	36¾	Tullow Oil	47½	−⅞	...	4.7
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.1
460	135	URU Metals♦	220	...	...	7.1
2⅝	⅛	Vast Res♦	¼	...	...	...
5½	2¾	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
6¼	2⅛	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
8⅛	2⅝	Westmount Engy♦	3⅛	−⅛	...	-0.6
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	162	+2½	...	-6.6
8	2¼	Woodbois♦	2¼	...	...	9.0
7	3	Xtract Resources♦	3¼	...	...	-5.8
7¾	4	Zephyr Energy♦	5⅝	+⅛	...	-7.2

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
4060	2240	4imprint Grp	4060	+5	0.2	68.5
555	457	Andrews Sykes♦	480	...	4.8	15.3
6450	3359	**Ashtead**	5050	+12	0.8	24.5
42	5¼	Asimilar Group♦	7¼	+1	...	0.3
170	59	AssetCo♦	60½	−½	...	0.3
50½	36	Avisen♦	45	...	...	...
148	100	Begbies Traynor♦	138⅜	+2	2.1	...
280	155	Blancco Tech♦	175	+7	...	62.7
3163	2575	**Bunzl**	2977	+13	1.8	22.5
48¾	20⅛	Capita	26	...	...	1.9
51½	39½	CEPS♦	39½	...	...	-8.9
130	89	Christie Group♦	116	...	...	49.3
1969½	1453½	**Compass**	1847½	+25	0.7	44.9
405	97	CPPGroup♦	102	+5	29.4	...
93½	56½	Croma Security♦	56½	+2½	3.5	8.1
6486	4521	**DCC**	4521	+34	3.5	14.9
175⅛	73	De La Rue	104	+3	...	13.6
3460	2158	Diploma	2736	−12	1.5	48.9
1062	597	Discoverie	868	−7	1.1	71.1
68½	23½	Driver Group♦	25½	−1½	5.8	12.1
357	175⅛	Essentra	233½	−1	2.2	26.2
3667	2285	**Experian**	2851	+11	1.2	36.5
13305	8680	Ferguson‡	10235	−80	1.7	15.1
250	210	FIH Group♦	235	...	...	...
175	53½	Gattaca♦	75	+2½	2.0	...
6⅛	4⅛	Grafenia♦	6	−⅛	...	-4.4
610	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	345½	...	2.0	3.6
1190	608½	**Homeserve**	1188	−1	2.1	...
655	413	Impellam Grp♦	655	...	...	35.7
45⅜	4	Ince G♦	6¾	−⅝	...	3.8
5782	3619	**Intertek**	4121	+27	2.5	23.1
305½	115⅜	IWG	174⅜	+2	...	-6.6
162	77	Johnson Srvce♦	102¾	−1½	...	64.2
137½	99	Journeo♦	114	−1	...	25.5
122¾	56½	Kier Gp	60	−½	...	5.8
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1325	+20	1.6	7.2
1085	695	Lok'n Store♦	925	...	1.6	28.0
3850	2350	Lon Security♦‡	2550	...	3.1	14.0
440	220	LSL Prop Services	259	+4	...	7.2
140	86	Macfarlane	106	−1	2.5	12.3
385	185	Maintel Hldgs♦	190	...	...	5.8
3750	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	11½	...	...	...
224	179½	Mears Group	198	−1½	1.2	17.2
608	255	Menzies (John)	607	−1	...	48.0
79¾	46⅜	Mitie Gp	75	−½	...	37.5
14¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	12¼	...	...	9.1
47½	25	Newmark Sec♦	31½	...	...	-7.8
8	3¾	Norm Broadbent♦	3¾	...	...	-7.0
66½	44½	Northern Bear♦	47½	...	...	4.8
286	193	NWF Grp♦‡	265	−5	2.7	...
678	362⅛	PageGroup	477½	−6½	0.9	12.9
73	47½	PCI-PAL♦	51½	−1½	...	...
13	8½	Petards♦	9	+¾	...	16.3
26½	17½	PHSC♦	18	...	5.5	32.7
5⅞	⅞	PowerHouse Egy♦	1½	...	...	-2.6
85	61	Record	77	+1½	2.9	21.1
440½	283½	Redde Northgate	355	−9½	4.3	8.9
872	555	Renew Hldgs♦	634	+1	2.0	15.6
851	489	Renewi	540	−10	...	11.4
636⅛	444½	**Rentokil Itl**	532	−1½	1.4	37.7
504	343	Restore♦	380	−5	0.6	45.2
490	331½	Ricardo‡	434	+4	1.5	38.7
862	440	Robert Walters	578	+28	2.8	13.2
20	10	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13	...	...	1.9
239	92	RPS Group	220	...	0.1	...
1255	812	**RS Group**	959	+5	2.6	24.3
47½	18	RTC Group♦	18	...	...	...
654	264⅜	RWS Hldgs♦	329¾	−2⅛	2.8	30.2
457	350	Science Group♦	390	...	1.0	17.9
188¼	121⅛	Serco Gp	166	+1⅝	1.3	6.8
41⅞	27½	Smiths News	41⅞	−⅜	1.1	4.0
4168	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	3182	−41	3.0	14.5
67	36¼	Staffline Gp♦	40	+¾	...	30.7
580	317½	SThree‡	412½	−1½	1.9	13.3
137½	90	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
34½	17⅝	Thruvision Group♦	22	...	...	-8.0
106	62¾	Tribal♦	62¾	−¼	1.9	19.6
102½	49	Vianet♦	51½	...	...	...
1010	665	Vp	665	+1	3.7	16.3
4⅞	1	Westminster♦	2¼	...	...	-2.7

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
134	37⅞	AO World	54¼	−1¾	...	...
644	295½	**B&M European**	392½	−10¾	4.4	9.1
44	20¼	Brown (N)♦	23½	−⅛	...	6.9
65	40⅜	Card Factory	58½	+7¾	...	...
2425	1549	CVS Group♦	1994	+8	0.3	55.8
289	104¾	DFS Furn	147	−1	5.1	7.8
1434	670½	Dunelm‡	970½	−40½	3.6	13.0
949½	562½	**Frasers Group**	789	−½	...	35.0
3416	1673	Greggs	2262	−8	0.6	19.7
370	124⅝	Halfords	208⅛	−3½	2.4	6.9
942⅛	480⅞	Howden Join‡	610½	−6⅜	2.1	11.5
928	647	Inchcape	844½	−2½	1.5	28.5
7	1⅝	IQ-AI	2⅛	...	...	-6.2
234	89⅛	**JD Sports**	119¾	+⅛	0.2	14.4
356	203	**Kingfisher**	246	−3½	4.9	6.1
101	56⅜	Lookers‡	79¾	+½	...	5.1
256⅞	93⅛	Marks Spencer	124⅝	−½	...	95.9
19⅝	6	Mothercare♦	7	−¾	...	-4.3
712	75½	Naked Wines♦	109	+1⅜	...	...
8426	4383	**Next**	5726	−52	...	10.9
1897½	393	**Ocado Gp**	770⅛	−155⅜	...	...
28¾	18½	Pendragon	27	...	...	8.4
483½	257¾	Pets at Home	308⅛	−3	2.6	12.5
320	72⅞	Saga	100½	−2⅝	...	...
299	169⅞	**Sainsbury J**‡	216	−4	4.9	18.1
1708½	1132½	Smith WH	1411	−5	...	...
34⅞	14¼	Sosandar♦	19	−½	...	...
3⅛	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
258½	103	Studio Retail#	115	−2½	...	2.4
156	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
303⅜	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	227⅞	−3	4.0	11.5
68	38	Topps Tiles	40	...	...	7.2

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
155	93	Access Intell♦	93	...	...	...
163½	81½	Aferian plc♦	89	...	3.3	15.9
209	137	Alfa Financial	154½	...	0.6	24.1
23½	8¼	Allied Minds	9⅛	−⅛	...	-0.8
589	290	Aptitude Software	369	+9	1.4	41.4
721	465	Avast	716½	−3½	1.6	28.5
3459	1924	**Aveva Gp**	3180	+4	1.2	...
206½	126½	Bango♦	190½	...	...	...
88½	26¼	BATM Adv Coms	30½	...	2.4	12.8
34	8¾	Berkeley Res	17¼	...	...	-7.3
32	13¾	Blackbird♦	13¾	−¾	...	...
1⅞	⅞	CloudCoCo Group♦	1	...	...	-2.6
2978	1810	Computacenter	2038	−24	2.7	12.6
96	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	82½	...	3.0	19.6
14½	9¼	Corero♦	9½	−½	...	...
2640	1340	Craneware♦	2055	+55	1.3	93.7
3	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2	...	...	13.3
27¾	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	14¾	−¼	...	...
375	221	D4t4 Solutions♦	256	...	1.1	30.3
1	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	⅛	...	...	-0.4
24	13	Dillistone Group♦	16	+1½	...	-4.6
1⅜	¼	EQTEC♦	¼	...	...	-3.7
1280	599	FDM Group	693	+20	6.2	24.0
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	12	...	...	32.4
2450	1230	First Derivts♦	1558	−28	...	...
883	330	GB Group♦	385⅜	−8½	1.6	29.4
183	136	GreshamTech	149	+½	0.5	...
193½	42⅞	Ilika♦	46	−1	...	...
123	71½	Ingenta♦	121	−1½	1.2	70.7
87½	38	Intercede♦	55	−1	...	18.9
200	121	Iomart♦	126	+2⅜	5.6	13.8
50⅜	28⅛	IQE♦	49	+⅝	...	...
179	115½	K3 Business Tch♦	115½	...	...	-1.9
2414½	1113	LG Electronics	1361⅝	+33½	...	3.6
½	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
527	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	523½	+½	3.4	-5.5
82½	45	MTI Wireless♦	48½	+1	3.7	16.1
52⅜	17	Nanoco Gp	35	+1½	...	...
93½	52	Netcall♦	83½	...	0.4	...
69½	46	Northamber♦	46	−½	2.1	...
62	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	18½	−1½	...	-9.7
126½	76½	Oxford Metrics♦	89	+½	2.0	38.7
9	6¼	Parity♦	6¼	−¾	...	-9.0
40	29	Pennant Intl♦	35	...	...	...
770	390¾	Playtech	547	−8½	...	5.7
394⅛	243	QinetiQ	343⅛	−2	3.2	26.8
210	20½	RM	38	+¼	12.3	7.6
853¾	595½	**Sage Gp**	755¾	+5¾	2.3	28.9
12	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	6¾	...	...	...
139	74	Shearwater Grp♦	107½	...	...	66.6
85	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	43	...	...	-4.5
1967	1084	Softcat‡	1291	−10	1.6	25.3
288⅛	215⅜	Spirent Comms	276	+⅛	1.6	25.7
50	24¾	SRT Marine♦	50	+2	...	...
941¾	482	Tele. Ericsson	521¾	+4¼	3.5	9.5
90	70	Touchstar♦	80	+2½	...	...
1077½	825	Tracsis♦	860	−20	...	...
27	14½	Trakm8♦	15¼	...	...	...
165	112	Triad Grp	132½	+2½	1.5	14.5
538	222½	Wandisco♦	538	+19	...	-9.9
1280	560	Water Intel♦	650	...	...	35.7
273	144½	Xaar	195¾	+4¾	...	...
13	2⅝	Yourgene♦	2⅝	...	...	-1.8
185	96⅜	Zoo Digital♦	180	...	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
226	102½	AdEPT Technology♦	112½	−10	...	...
170⅞	107¾	**Airtel Africa**‡	117	−2	2.7	10.4
200⅞	114	**BT Group**	122¾	−2⅛	...	11.9
140	55½	Currys plc	82⅞	−2	...	3.9
1830	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1134	...	1.0	20.5
175	100¼	Helios Towers	119¾	−2	...	...
5365	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1970½	−100⅜	...	-4.2
½	⅛	Mobile Streams♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
2½	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	⅞	...	...	-5.1
2275	1274	Telecom Plus	2275	+10	2.5	58.3
139½	95⅞	**Vodafone Gp**	95⅞	−8¼	8.0	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	201	Braemar Ship	336½	+14	1.4	11.1
727⅜	285	easyJet	416⅝	−4¼	...	-2.6
14⅜	4½	Esken Limited	5⅝	+⅛	...	-0.2
139½	88½	FirstGroup	95	−⅛	...	22.6
510	251	Fisher (James)	311½	+6½	...	-5.6
178¼	93⅝	**Intl Cons Air**	139⅛	−2⅛	...	-3.0
526¾	183⅛	Int Distrib Serv	246⅞	−3¾	4.0	2.8
402½	262¼	Irish Cont Uts	359	...	...	...
...	...	Jet2♦	942⅜	−4	...	-5.0
284⅛	161¼	Natl Express	176⅞	−4⅝	...	...
1050	820	Ocean Wilson	895	−5	8.9	4.5
106⅛	68⅜	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24½	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	22	...	...	...
424	282	Wincanton	368½	...	2.8	10.0
4867	1357½	Wizz Air Hldgs	2301	−66	...	-5.2

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
90⅞	64¾	**Centrica**‡	86¼	+2¾	...	8.7
258	178	ContourGlobal‡	250	...	5.1	28.2
831½	473⅜	Drax Group	564	+16½	3.1	41.7
627½	485	Jersey Electricity	500	...	3.3	9.4
1245½	858⅜	**Natl Grid**	1003	−6	4.9	23.3
13¾	5¾	OPG Power♦	7	...	...	4.5
1237	755	Pennon	936½	−20	3.4	67.8
⅝	⅜	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
3211	2213	**Severn Trent**	2688	−68	3.7	...
1920	1428	**SSE**	1643½	+11½	4.9	6.4
1176½	828⅛	**Utd Utilities**	1008	−22	4.2	92.4

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

The Society of Will Writers



LIVE CARE FREE

Use a member of The Society of Will Writers for your estate planning. Our members are trained and insured to make sure that you get the best advice possible.

Contact us today:

01522 687 888 | www.willwriters.com



Presenter of Top Gear during the Eighties
Sue Baker
Page 54

Register

Obituaries

Wing Commander Richard Storer

Bomber pilot who became the first team manager of the Red Arrows in 1965 and later established a thriving rare breeds farm in Suffolk



Storer in a Folland Gnat in 1965, when he managed the Red Arrows. In later years, he owned a farm

The Avro Vulcan bomber — a key component of Britain's nuclear deterrent in the late Fifties and Sixties — was not designed for aerobatics. For one thing, the aircraft weighed more than 100 tons.

One RAF officer, Richard Storer, had different ideas, however. An experienced pilot with a degree in physics, Storer decided to conduct his own, rather unorthodox stress tests on the aircraft in 1963.

Renowned for his pronounced sense of humour, Storer was curious to know whether the great bomber could cope with a barrel roll in which the aircraft briefly flies upside down before turning full circle. Such manoeuvres are usually associated with more nimble aircraft.

The Vulcan was a big machine. With huge delta wings and no tail, the aircraft was designed to carry nuclear bombs at high altitude against targets in the Soviet Union.

It was powered by four Bristol Siddeley Olympus engines and, at a little over 105ft long with a wingspan of 111ft, was more than seven times heavier than the wartime Lancaster.

Storer was an accomplished pilot. He had flown Hawker Hunter fighter-bombers before converting to the Vulcan in 1961.

He then joined 83 Squadron, which was based at Scampton, home of the famous "Dambusters", in Lincolnshire.

The Vulcan was one of three aircraft — the others were the Vickers Valiant and Handley-Page Victor — which carried Britain's nuclear deterrent in the Fifties and Sixties. They were known as the "V Bombers".

At Scampton, Storer mastered the innovative rapid-start system that enabled the bombers to take off in two minutes from a standing start and head for enemy targets before any incoming weapons destroyed their bases. His squadron was later sent to the United States to demonstrate the technique.

Indeed, the sight and sound of four Vulcans taking off on the same runway at almost the same time apparently impressed even the most experienced officers. One air marshal watching from the control tower at Scampton seemingly struggled to find an appropriate response before resorting to blasphemy.

While Storer and his crew flew at the cutting edge of military technology, they appeared to be slightly less competent at the opposite end of the technical spectrum. After the sound of repetitive banging was heard in the aircraft on one flight, Storer aborted the mission.

Further investigation established that the sound had emanated from a member of the five-man crew, who had forgotten his can opener and used a fire axe to open a tin of soup.

As for the barrel roll, Storer completed the manoeuvre with some aplomb and no apparent adverse impact on his majestic aircraft. Whether the event had any influence on his next posting is not recorded, but some time later he was given command of a fledgling aerobatic team — the Red Arrows.

In the early Sixties, the RAF had several aerobatic teams, which included the Blue Diamonds (92 Squadron), the Tigers (74 Squadron), the Firebirds (56 Squadron) and the Red Pelicans and Yellowjacks from the flying training schools. Amid concerns that pilots were spending more time on aerobatics than operational training, the display teams were amalgamated in late 1964.

A few months later, Storer, who had been made squadron leader, was given the task of managing the RAF's new aerobatic display team, which was equipped with the Folland Gnat, a compact, lightweight fighter, at the Central Flying School at RAF Little Rissington in Gloucestershire.

Although Storer did not fly with the Red Arrows in public, he was their first team manager. He nurtured them through the first two years of their existence and ensured that they survived.

He nurtured the Red Arrows in the first years, ensuring they survived

As one former pilot wrote later in a note to Storer's family: "He was one of the most remarkable men I have ever met . . . charming, unflappable and with a wicked sense of humour, he was the perfect man for being in charge in those uncertain and often chaotic days. With only an airman clerk to help him, he worked much harder than any of us. We all admired and respected him, a true gentleman and friend."

The note was signed "Red 5".

Storer's new team made their first public display flying seven bright red Gnats in front of newspaper reporters at Little Rissington on May 6, 1965. Three days later, the Red Arrows appeared at the French National Air Day in Clermont-Ferrand, and at the Biggin Hill International Air Fair on May 15. They flew 65 displays across Europe in their first season and were awarded the Britannia Trophy by the Royal Aero Club for "meritorious performance in aviation".

Despite this success, Storer faced many challenges.

On one occasion his team leader was almost court-martialled after he ignored an order directing his pilots to fly to the east coast by a circuitous route. In the event, the rebellious Red Arrows flew straight and low from RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire to the North Sea with full smoke on — but the crisis passed.

By 1966, some officials wanted the display team closed down as defence spending was reviewed and cut. Storer stood his ground and persuaded the RAF not to disband them.

The Red Arrows survived and thrived. He always considered this to be his greatest achievement.

Today, the Red Arrows are one of the most accomplished display teams in the world; they hold a prominent place in British culture, and are considered a useful tool of soft power, wowing spectators across the world and promoting British industry. Since Storer organised the first events in 1965, the Red Arrows have performed nearly 5,000 displays in more than 50 countries.

In 1967, Storer left the display team, but maintained contacts for the rest of his life. He conducted a long correspondence with Squadron Leader Dickie Duckett, who took over the Red Arrows in 1969. According to Storer's daughter Katrina, he would pose in his letters as the golf-loving son of a Luftwaffe pilot who was trying to arrange a marriage between his sister, Helga, and Duckett. He usually referred to a golf club as a "hitten missen schwingen schtick". Storer later took command of two experimental squadrons at the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough, flying a variety of aircraft.

He served as air attaché at the British Embassy in Brussels, where he produced a guide to the Battle of Waterloo for visiting dignitaries.

He also held senior positions at RAF Cottesmore in Rutland and RAF Wyton in Cambridgeshire, where he flew Canberra bombers.

He had a year-long secondment to the BBC where he acted as adviser on the 1982 drama series *Squadron*. After the Falklands conflict, he led the team that built the new air base at Mount Pleasant on East Falkland and extended facilities on Ascension Island.

Richard Anthony Elliot Storer, known as Dick, was born in Hampstead, north London in 1933, the only child of Daphne Storer and her husband, Richard, who was a barrister. He had a half-brother through his mother's first marriage. The family moved to Suffolk in 1942.

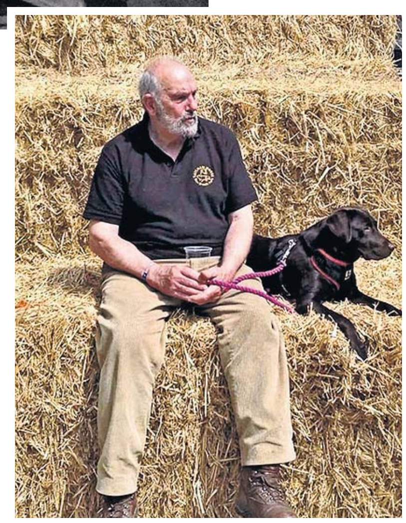
Richard was educated at Ipswich School, where he excelled at science and was a school prefect. He made model boats and aeroplanes and followed the drone of German bombers flying across Suffolk and watched the searchlights.

He read physics at the University of Durham, where he met his future wife, Ann Mackay, who had enjoyed reading Biggles as a child. In their second year of studies, she sold him a geology hammer that repeatedly lost its head. Their friendship, however, flourished.

The couple were married in 1957 and had three children: Fiona, who ran her husband's plumbing business before retiring in France; Neil, who is a farmer; and Katrina, who has a physiotherapy and Pilates practice. Ann died in 2011 at the age of 77. His children survive him.

Storer had learnt to fly with the university air squadron at Durham and joined the RAF in 1956, the year before his marriage.

He took advanced instruction at RAF Swinderby in Lincolnshire and RAF Valley on Anglesey. His first operational posting was with 66 Squadron at Acklington in Northumberland, where he flew the Hunter, which he said was "beautiful to fly". At Acklington, he took part in the weekly kipper run from the RAF mess to Robson's smokehouse in Craster — "the best kippers in the country" — and, although he was terrified of snakes, he was part of the team that flew the squadron's mascot, a rattlesnake, to Gerald Durrell's zoo in Jersey when the unit was disbanded in 1960. In his spare time, he enjoyed shooting and fishing.



Shortly before Storer left the RAF in 1985, he and his wife purchased Baylham Farm near Bury St Edmunds, where they specialised in rare breeds such as White Park and Old Gloucester cattle. He was honoured by the British Pig Association in 2022 for his 25-year service to rare breeds. Working long hours, they opened the farm to the public in 1995 and turned it into an attraction, which is now run by their son, Neil.

Storer suffered from a long, debilitating illness, but never lost his sense of humour or his affection for the Red Arrows. In August, just a few weeks before his death, the display team flew over Baylham Farm in tribute to the man who had kept them in the air.

Wing Commander Richard Storer, Red Arrows team manager, was born on November 9, 1933. He died after a long illness on October 19, 2022, aged 89

Dan McCafferty

Gritty-voiced, wild-haired lead singer of Nazareth, the Scottish rock band whose platinum-selling album inspired Guns N' Roses

With his corkscrew hair, wide flares and stack-heeled platform boots, Dan McCafferty was every inch the classic Seventies rocker. As the lead singer with Nazareth, he swung the mic stand and wiggled his hips with a swagger that rivalled Robert Plant as he belted out lyrics such as "Now you're messin' with a son of a bitch" in a grittily hard-edged voice.

Numbers such as *Hair Of The Dog*, *Love Hurts* and *This Flight Tonight* made Nazareth Scotland's premier rock band and, touring the world, McCafferty enjoyed the rock'n'roll lifestyle — until he got back home to his home town of Dunfermline, where the conservative-minded burghers expected a more sober-sided appearance.

As a dutiful husband eager to make amends for his absence, he would offer to accompany his wife Maryann to the supermarket to do the shopping. "Not dressed like that you won't," she would tell him. Such attitudes kept his rock star feet firmly planted on the ground and despite the temptations of the road, he largely avoided the burn-out and dissipation that derailed so many of his peers. "We were never the sort of band that used to have wild after-show parties. We weren't trying to be famous or trying to change the world. We came from a small town and we just wanted to play music," he said.

He remembered the first time a girl stopped him in the street and asked for his autograph. "I thought 'how does she know who I am?' Then she said 'I saw you on *Top of the Pops* last night'. It was only then I realised we were famous."

McCafferty fronted Nazareth for 45 years, singing on more than 20 albums, until chronic obstructive pulmonary disease forced his retirement in 2013. The illness left him struggling for breath. "I can't sing on tour like I used to any more," he said.

With his blessing, Nazareth continued with a new vocalist, although by then bassist Pete Agnew was the only remaining original member in the line-up. However, McCafferty was still able to record in the more sedate surroundings of a studio and in 2019 released a solo album titled *Last Testament*.

"My mind strays back to my history," he sang on one song. "The land I'm from taught me that when I travelled around I found the same on every shore: home is where the heart is."

The sentiment was unfeigned. Apart from a brief spell living in London when the band were first trying to make it, he never left the environs of Dunfermline and is survived by his Scottish wife Maryann and their sons, Derek, a civil engineer, and Colin, an antique car dealer.

William Daniel McCafferty was born in 1946 in Dunfermline, Scotland, the son of Catherine and Hugh McCafferty, a stoker in the Royal Navy. He met Agnew when he was five on his first day at St Margaret's primary school. They shared a desk and, as Agnew put it, "remained joined at the hip for 71 years."

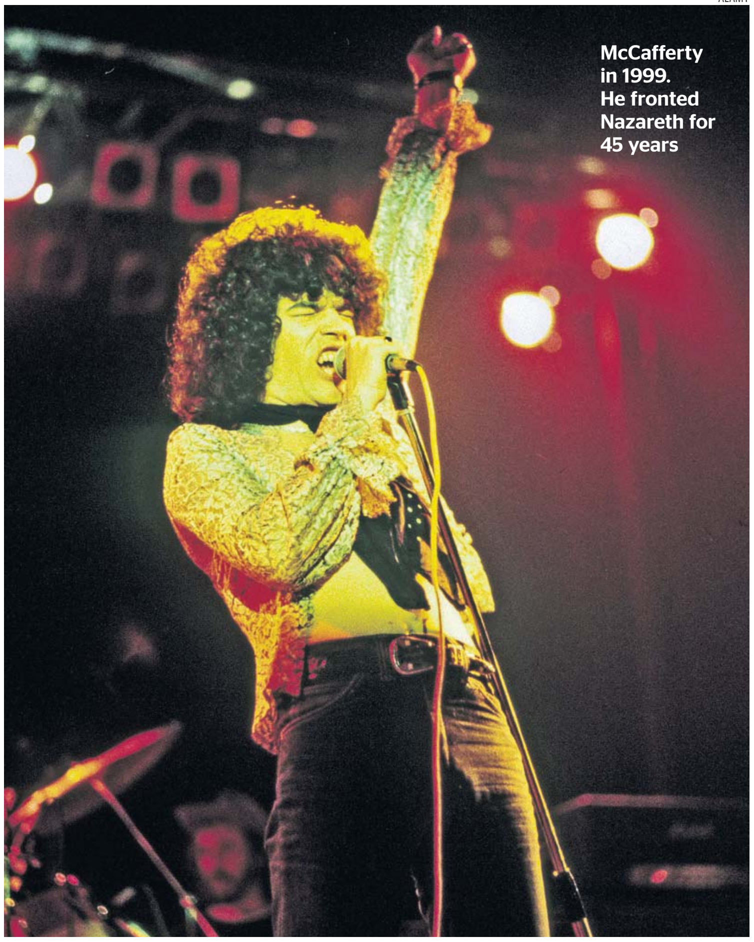
In the mid-Sixties McCafferty and Agnew formed a band called the Shadettes. Dressed in yellow suits, they played the Scottish ballrooms, essaying note-for-note covers of whatever was in the charts that week with McCafferty imitating everyone from Paul McCartney to Tom Jones.

Inspired by the emerging sound of prog rock and thinking that the Shadettes sounded dated, they were discussing a change of name one night in 1968 in the bar of a local hotel before a gig, when *The Weight* by The Band came on the jukebox.

"The first line of the song goes 'I pulled into Nazareth, feelin' 'bout half past dead'," McCafferty recalled. "Pete said 'How about Nazareth?' and nobody disagreed."

They ditched the yellow suits, grew their hair and began writing their own songs, although the change of style did not bring immediate success. McCafferty, who was working as a mechanical engineer, along with Agnew, drummer Darrell Sweet and guitarist Manny Charlton (obituary July 13, 2022) kept their day jobs until 1970, when with financial backing from Bill Fehilly, a Scottish bingo hall owner who became their manager, Nazareth moved to London in search of a recording contract.

ALAMY



McCafferty in 1999. He fronted Nazareth for 45 years

Living in a run-down communal flat with wives and children left behind in Dunfermline, there were moments when McCafferty and his band mates wondered if they had made a terrible mistake. But prolific, if ill-paid, gigging on the club and college circuit eventually got them noticed and Nazareth landed their record deal and a prestigious support slot on tour with Deep Purple.

Their breakthrough came with their third album, 1973's *Razamanaz*. A heavy metal classic produced by Deep Purple's Roger Glover, it gave them two Top Ten hit singles in *Broken Down Angel* and *Bad Bad Boy*. Both songs were written by the band but they scored even bigger hits with covers of Joni Mitchell's *This Flight Tonight* and the Everly Brothers' *Love Hurts*. However, unlike their early days in the Scottish ballrooms when they were expected to copy hit songs with a slavish rigidity, they set about making their covers sound as different as possible from the original versions.

This Flight Tonight was transformed from a folk ballad into a stomping rocker, much to Mitchell's surprise when the band met her in a Los Angeles studio and they played her their version prior to its release. She later jokingly took to introducing her composition in concert as "a song by Nazareth".

Love Hurts, from their platinum-selling 1975 album *Hair Of The Dog*, took them into the American Top Ten and was an equally radical reinvention. *The Hair Of The Dog* album became a favourite of the 13 year-old Axl Rose, who cited Nazareth as his favourite band and later recorded the title track with its unforgettable "'son-of-a-bitch" chorus with his band Guns N' Roses.

The hits were fewer in the Eighties and Nineties but by then the band had built a loyal core following that sustained them through shifting fads and fashion and various line-up changes, including the death of drummer Sweet from a heart attack on an American tour in 1999. Keeping it in the family, he was replaced by Agnew's son Lee.

"When we started we just thought it would be great to make a record and bounce around for a couple of years and see what happens," McCafferty said. "Eventually, we started getting a following … and then 40 years goes by just like that."

Dan McCafferty, rock singer, was born on October 14, 1946. He died of undisclosed causes on November 8, 2022, aged 76

Sue Baker

Presenter of Top Gear in the Eighties whose civilised road tests were replaced by Jeremy Clarkson's 'boys and toys' approach

When Sue Baker left *Top Gear* after 11 years and 113 episodes as a presenter, her replacement was Jeremy Clarkson.

The show was then relaunched in 1991 and, with Clarkson firmly in the driving seat, viewing figures surged while he effectively stuck two fingers up to those who claimed that he was encouraging irresponsible driving.

However, female viewers in particular lamented the loss of Baker's thoughtful and eloquent road tests. As a more than accomplished driver who had competed in rallies, Baker could probably have driven Clarkson off the road if she wanted to, but her measured reviews delivered in clipped received pronunciation were the antithesis of the "boys and toys" approach. If there was so much as a wheel spin when the vehicle was pulling away, the scene would be reshot.

"Contrary to popular perception, testing cars is not about rushing around with pedal pushed to the floor," she wrote in The Observer in 1995. "That kind of testing undoubtedly feeds the egos of some of its perpetrators, but it has scant relevance to the way the majority of car buyers will ever use their vehicles."

Baker was the go-to person to give her verdict on the latest incarnation of the Ford Escort in 1987 — when it was Britain's bestselling car. She was equally adept behind the wheel of a Maserati Biturbo Spyder convertible, revving up with her fair hair blowing behind her.

REX FEATURES



Baker in 1972 being shown a Formula One car by the British driver John Surtees

"The very first thing you notice about driving the Maserati is that wonderful growly engine sound. It's a beautiful noise to be driving behind," she told the viewers before criticising the wing mirrors and the absence of a radio.

Baker knew all the motoring correspondents and presenters after years of attending road-testing trips in exotic locations. "In order to accommodate as many road testers as possible, writers are usually asked to test cars in pairs," she said. "There is therefore the problem of choosing your partner, one you can bear to be cocooned with in a car for many hours and whose driving you trust. Every motoring writer has a blacklist of partners, usually headed by the one who overtakes on blind bends." Baker named no names.

Test driving on her own also had occupational hazards. "In a remote region of Japan, I was concentrating on my impressions of the car and I lost my bearings. All the road signs were in Japanese, as were the place names on the inadequate map. It was late into the night before I managed to find the hotel telephone number and get rescued."

Leslie Susan Baker was born in Chislehurst, Kent, in 1947 to Dora and Frank Baker, who worked for Barclays Bank. She hated the name Leslie from an early age and told her parents that if they called her it again she would run away.

Living near Brands Hatch, motorsport was her passion. After being educated locally, Baker trained in journalism at Harlow College, Essex.

Aged 20, she set up the Motor Racing News Service at Brands Hatch, which kept petrolheads updated on the latest races at the historic circuit.

Throughout the Seventies, Baker rose to prominence in the motoring journalism world. Most of the women she encountered at motor shows would be "decorative" in skimpy bikinis. However, Baker's male counterparts soon learnt not to take liberties. Clarkson, then a relative TV novice, was firmly kept in second gear as she trained him up to replace her on screen.

Baker served as The Observer's motoring correspondent for 13 years before going freelance. In 2000 she was commissioned by Green Flag to write *The Glove Box Guide for Women Drivers*, addressing issues that Green Flag had unearthed in a nationwide survey of women drivers.

Baker was married to John Downey, who worked in naval intelligence and predeceased her three years ago. She is survived by their daughter Hannah, who works for the London Electric Car Company, and their son Ian, a civil servant.

Though she had built her reputation as a rather civilised motoring correspondent, overbearing PRs soon learnt not to harass her about a new range of seat fabrics or a revised front grille.

Baker was also fiercely competitive. In 2009 she took part in a driving challenge at the launch of the Ford Focus RS, which involved a handbrake turn into a tight space between two vehicles. Baker spent the whole day practising and did not gloat to her much younger male colleagues when she won.

Sue Baker, motoring journalist and TV presenter, was born on May 9, 1947. She died of motor neurone disease on November 14, 2022, aged 75

Lives remembered

His Honour Percy Harris KC

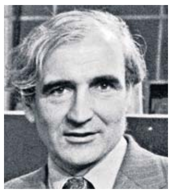


Lord Brown of Eaton-under-Heywood, retired Justice of the Supreme Court, writes: As your admirably full obituary (November 3) suggests, Percy Harris, a towering figure both as competitor and Secretary of the Bar golfing society, plus-foured, bow-tied, and with a withering retort at the ready for anyone foolhardy enough to question his authority, took no prisoners. His attitude even towards senior golfing judges was characterised by one such as "barely respectful insolence".

You record him as having resigned from the Society when first a woman member was admitted in 1992. So he did, but when, at the Society's anniversary party the following year at Walmer Castle, attended by Percy as a guest, I chanced upon both and, unable to resist the temptation, mischievously introduced them: "Percy, do meet the reason you resigned" — he readily acknowledged his idiocy and embraced her warmly.

Seeing Percy as counsel in a road accident case at Slough county court (where I was waiting to come on), I wondered whether, in this very different context, he had finally met his match in Claude Duveen QC, the notoriously maverick judge presiding there. Opening his client's case, Percy asserted that her conduct throughout had been "as pure as the driven snow", Claude testily interrupted to say he'd never understood what was supposedly so pure about driven snow. Percy's instant response — "as pure, Your Honour, as the properly driven snow" — plainly delighted Claude and swung the case from that moment decisively in the claimant's favour. Truly, Claude Duveen and Percy Harris were two of a kind and there may be some who regret that the mould would now appear broken.

Sir David Butler



Anthony Teasdale writes: Your admirable obituary to Sir David Butler (November 9) mentioned his legendary reluctance to be drawn on his own party preferences or voting habits in British elections. As one of his students at Nuffield College, Oxford, over 40 years ago, I once tried to get David to reveal his party allegiance, asking if he had yet voted in the local elections that day, and if so, how. His reply was beautifully evasive: "Yes, I voted early this morning. There are three vacancies in my ward. I voted for one candidate from each of the parties — Conservative, Labour and Liberal. The choice was easy: all three are very good friends of mine!"

Another amusing feature of David's persona was that his astonishing capacity to analyse election results was not always matched by a corresponding instinct for predicting them. On US election day in November 1980, we were discussing the challenge posed by Ronald Reagan to incumbent president Jimmy Carter. He said: "If I am sure of one thing, it's that Ronald Reagan will never be president of the United States."

A year before, he had told me that if Margaret Thatcher were ever elected to No 10, she would very likely be a one-term prime minister.

Over many decades, David's search for truth and his desire to share it widely, his remarkable ability to explain complex political situations simply, and his personal generosity towards his students, all marked him out as a great teacher of politics, building a corresponding affection among those lucky enough to have been taught by him.

@ If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can email it to **tributes@thetimes.co.uk**

Court Circular

Buckingham Palace
15th November, 2022
The President of the Republic of Ghana visited The King at Windsor Castle this afternoon.

The King and Queen of Norway afterwards visited His Majesty.

The King gave a Reception at Windsor Castle this evening following the Platinum Jubilee at which The Prince and Princess of Wales, The Countess of Wessex, The Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy were present.

St James's Palace
15th November, 2022
The Earl of Wessex, Chairman of the Trustees, The Prince Philip Trust Fund for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, this evening attended a Trustees' Meeting followed by a Dinner at Welford Park, Newbury, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr James Puxley).

The Countess of Wessex, Patron, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, attended a Luncheon at JC Bamford Excavators Limited, Station Road, Rocester, in support of the Company's Platinum Jubilee Appeal for the Charity and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire (Mr Ian Dudson).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited Safe Space in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire.

The Countess of Wessex afterwards visited the Salvation Army in Bridge Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

St James's Palace
15th November, 2022
The Princess Royal, President, Riding for the Disabled Association, this afternoon visited Maisemore Group at Hartpury College and University, Hartpury, to mark the Fiftieth Anniversary and was received by Mr Philip Vickery (Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

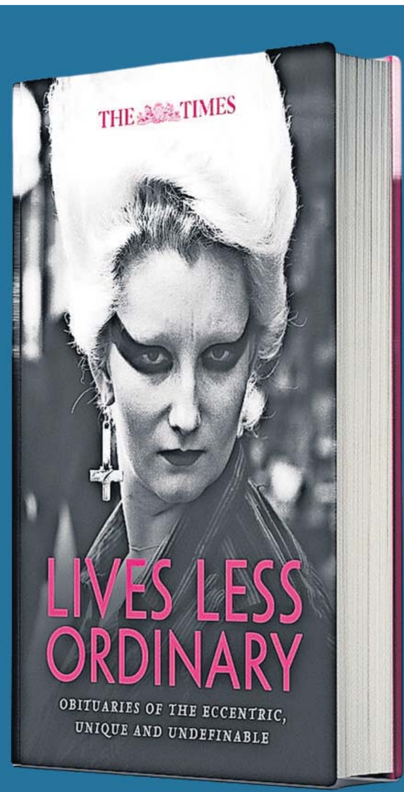
Kensington Palace
15th November, 2022
The Duke of Gloucester this morning officially opened the new Service Centre extension at Specialist Valve Services, Silvertrees Drive, Westhill, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire (Mr Alexander Manson).

His Royal Highness this afternoon attended a Civic Reception at Fraserburgh Lighthouse Museum, Stevenson Road, Fraserburgh, and presented The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Invercairn Gala Committee.

The Duke of Gloucester afterwards visited Fraserburgh Town Centre Regeneration and Conservation Project.

A new collection of Times obituaries

Delve into the lives of the quirky and unorthodox



Available now from thetimes.co.uk/bookshop

THE TIMES

Births, Marriages and Deaths

020 7782 7553
newsukadvertising.co.uk

IF one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12.26-27 (NRSV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

POTTHOFF on 12th November 2022 to Doctor Eva Potthoff and Doctor Daniel Potthoff, a daughter, Ida Ottilie. We are delighted to announce the birth of our granddaughter in Bern, Switzerland. The happiest grandparents, Duncan and Petra Christie.

Deaths

GURNEY Jeremy on 2nd November 2022, aged 88, of Ferry Hill. Beloved husband of Bridget (née Balkwill) and father of Kate, Jo and David. Died in his sleep at home. Internationally recognised bridge engineer, experienced sailor, and one of life's adventurers. He will be sorely missed. Thanksgiving service at St Winwaloe's church, East Portlemouth, on Saturday 26th November at 2pm.

HARFORD Timothy William died peacefully on 8th November 2022, aged 72. Tim will be sadly missed by his wife Ann, son Max and daughter Belinda. He will also be much missed by his brothers David and Chris and by his many friends.

HOPE JOHNSTONE Susan Josephine, Countess of Annandale and Hartfell. On the 4th November 2022, peacefully at home, beloved wife of Patrick, mother of David and Julia. A private family funeral will take place at Wamphray Parish Church. A memorial service will take place at a later date.

PALLING Keith Leonard, aged 79, died peacefully at home in St Martin's on November 8th 2022. He was best friend to Helen, his wife, and inspirational and loving dad to Jenefer, Sarah, Guy, Annabelle and Jonathon, and to stepchildren, Robin and Naomi. He was grandfather to eight, Becky, Fafoo, Pippa, Maia, Teddy, Izzy, Charlie and Emme. He is sadly missed. An ever-curious engineer, and a dependable friend to all, Keith filled life with fun and adventure, always with a twinkle in his eye. Donations in memory for the benefit of Oswestry Dial-a-Ride (The Qube) and The Youth Hostel Association. Inquiries to David Davies & Sons, Funeral Directors, 1 Upper Church Street, Oswestry, SY11 2AA 01691 653116.

RHYS-DAVIES Nigel (Dr, retired), died on 5th November 2022, aged 81. Late of Willand, Devon. Husband of the late Karen, loving father to James, and grandfather to Emily and William. All inquires to W.H. Squires & Son, tel 01884 839556.

ROBERTSON Janet Ivory Audrey (née Chetwynd-Talbot) passed away on 13th September 2022, aged 89. Widow of Donald, much-missed mother of James, William and John. Thanksgiving ceremony 2pm Saturday 26th November at Grove Gardens Chapel, Richmond Old Cemetery TW10.

TOWNELEY Sir Simon, peacefully at home on 11 November 2022, aged 100. Funeral 11am Friday 25th November at St Mary's RC Church, Yorkshire Street, Burnley. No flowers. Donations to Pendleside Hospice. A bus will collect from Preston Station at 9.45am and depart for Preston at 4pm. All inquiries to Alderson & Horan Funeral Services, tel 01282 427483.

WALSH John, Emeritus Fellow, Jesus College Oxford, died peacefully at home on 3rd November, aged 95. Beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother. Funeral at Wesley Memorial Church, Oxford, on Friday 25th November at noon.

WILLIAMS
Barbara Ann (née Deeble) on 1st November 2022, aged 85. Barbara was the much-loved daughter of Horace and Edith Deeble, mother to Bronwen and Lowri and grandmother to Joseph, Jacob, Kezia, Benedict and Medi. And a friend to many. The funeral service will take place on Wednesday 30 November 2022 at St Aidan's Church, Central Boulevard, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster DN2 5PE at 1pm. Black is optional and flowers are welcome. All inquiries to W. E. Pinder & Son 19 Thorne Road, Bawtry, DN10 6QL, 01302 710285.

Birthdays

LUCEY-MARTINE Natalia. Happy 17th birthday my beautiful daughter. You are a joy and I love you so much. Dad.

The simple way to place your announcement in The Times. Available 24 hours a day.

newsukadvertising.co.uk

Meeting

ROYAL MEDICAL FOUNDATION OF EPSOM COLLEGE The Annual General Meeting of Governors will be held at Epsom College on Wednesday 30th November 2022 at 7.00pm. The agenda will include receipt of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, election of chairman and vice-chairman for the following year, election of Members of Council to fill vacancies arising and appointment of auditors. Full agenda details are available from The Secretary, The Royal Medical Foundation of Epsom College, College Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 4JQ. By order of the Council. Mrs E. L. Winfield, Secretary to Council.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion



Legal Notices

OLIVER JOHN CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
Company Number 10186918
Principal trading address: 25 Buttercup Close, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG40 1QZ
Notice is hereby given that creditors of the Company are required, on or before 11 December 2022, to prove their debts by delivering their proofs (in the format specified in Rule 14.4 of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016) to the Joint Liquidators at KRE Corporate Recovery Limited, Unit 8 The Aquarium, 1-7 King Street, Reading, Berks RG1 2AN or info@krecr.co.uk. If so required by notice from the Joint Liquidators, creditors must produce any document or other evidence which the Joint Liquidators consider is necessary to substantiate the whole or any part of a claim.
Note: The Directors of the Company have made a declaration of solvency and it is expected that all creditors will be paid in full.
Name and address of Liquidators: David Taylor and Paul Ellison of KRE Corporate Recovery Limited, Unit 8 The Aquarium, 1-7 King Street, Reading, Berks RG1 2AN
Further details contact: The Joint Liquidators,
Email: info@krecr.co.uk or 01189 479090.
Alternative contact: Lee Lloyd

A M SIGNALLING DESIGN LIMITED
Company Number: 08042265
Principal Trading Address: Howard House, Graycar Business Park, Barton Under Needwood, Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 8EN
BEARWARD ENGINEERING LIMITED
Company Number: 01590082
Principal Trading Address: Main Road, Far Cotton, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN4 8HJ
BRECKNELL, WILLIS & CO. LIMITED
Company Number: 00306444
Principal Trading Address: Howard House, Graycar Business Park, Barton Under Needwood, Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 8EN
KEELEX 351 LIMITED
Company Number: 07209033
Principal Trading Address: Howard House, Graycar Business Park, Barton Under Needwood, Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 8EN
L H GROUP SERVICES LIMITED
Company Number: 01394005
Principal Trading Address: Howard House, Graycar Business Park, Barton Under Needwood, Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 8EN
MORS SMITT UK LTD
Company Number: 03280530
Principal Trading Address: Unit 6a Graycar Business Park, Barton Under Needwood, Burton-On-Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 8EN
(All in Members' Voluntary Liquidation)
As Joint Liquidators of the Companies, we hereby give notice that we intend to make a final distribution to their creditors. The last date for proving is 29 December 2022 and creditors of the Company should by that date send their full names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to me, Derek Neil Hyslop of Ernst & Young LLP, Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EB. In accordance with Rule 14.38(1)(c) of the Insolvency (England and Wales) Rules 2016, we, may thereafter make the proposed distribution without regard to the claim of any person in respect of a debt not yet proved.
Date of Appointment: 3 November 2022
Office Holder Details: Derek Neil Hyslop and Colin Peter Dempster both of Ernst & Young LLP, Atria One, 144 Morrison Street, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX
For further details contact: The Joint Liquidators, Tel: 020 7951 2093. Alternative contact: Maria Prince
Derek Neil Hyslop, Joint Liquidator

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS

PLANNING ACT 2008

A27 ARUNDEL BYPASS

NOTICE PUBLICISING A PROPOSED APPLICATION FOR A DEVELOPMENT CONSENT ORDER

NON-STATUTORY SUPPLEMENTARY CONSULTATION

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS LIMITED of Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ ("the Applicant") proposes to make an application ("the Application") under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 to the Secretary of State for Transport for a Development Consent Order.

The Application is for the proposed A27 Arundel Bypass; including a new dual two-lane carriageway extending approximately 8 km, located to the south of the existing A27. The new dual carriageway will re-join the existing A27 west of Tye Lane and east of the Fontwell (east) roundabout. At the eastern end, the new dual carriageway will re-join the existing A27 to the east of the new Crossbush junction (the Scheme). The Scheme aims to improve safety, reduce congestion by increasing capacity and protect the quality of the surrounding environment.

National Highways carried out statutory consultation in relation to the Application from 11 January 2022 to 8 March 2022. Having received feedback during statutory consultation, and after further investigations, National Highways is carrying out a supplementary consultation in relation to changes made to the Scheme. This non-statutory supplementary consultation is taking place from 16 November 2022 to 16 December 2022.

The Scheme is an Environmental Impact Assessment development ("EIA development"), as defined by The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. This means that the proposed works constitute development for which an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required. An Environmental Statement containing information about the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme will therefore be submitted as part of the Application. During the January 2022 to March 2022 statutory consultation, preliminary environmental information was included in a Preliminary Environmental Information Report, which is available online at https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/a27-arundel-bypass/ along with the rest of the statutory consultation materials.

Supplementary consultation

From **16 November 2022** to **16 December 2022,** we are carrying out a supplementary consultation on changes to the Scheme since statutory consultation.

Supplementary consultation materials comprise:

- **Supplementary Consultation brochure** – The supplementary consultation brochure sets out the proposed design changes to the Scheme, as well as an assessment of any changes to the environmental effects that may result from the changes, compared to what was presented previously. The brochure includes imagery from our general arrangement drawings to show the key areas where design changes to the Scheme have occurred since the statutory consultation. It also takes the opportunity to clarify certain aspects of the Scheme proposals.
- **Feedback form** – Available in hard copy format and online, this feedback form is for people to provide their feedback on the proposed changes the Scheme presented as part of the supplementary consultation
- **Walberton Traffic Mitigation Assessment technical note** – This document offers further information and detail on our proposals to mitigate against a predicted increase in traffic along The Street in Walberton.

Copies of all supplementary consultation materials will be available online free of charge from **16 November 2022 to 16 December 2022** at https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/a27-arundel-bypass/ where there will be a direct link to the consultation webpage.

Document deposit locations

All of our consultation documents will be available to view free of charge in paper-copy at the document deposit locations below from **16 November 2022 to 16 December 2022**. These are subject to any COVID or other restrictions that may exist at the time, and we recommend checking our website or calling 0300 123 5000 for any unexpected closures of venues prior to travel.

Location:	Address:	Date:	Time:
Arun Civic Centre	Arun Civic Centre 1 Maltravers Road Littlehampton West Sussex BN17 5LF	Monday to Friday	9am to 1pm 2pm to 4pm
Arundel Town Hall	Arundel Town Hall Maltravers Street Arundel West Sussex BN18 9AP	Monday to Friday	9am to 1pm
Arundel Library	Arundel Library Surrey Street Arundel BN18 9DT	Monday to Wednesday Thursday to Saturday	1pm to 5pm 9am to 1pm
County Hall, Chichester	WSCC County Hall West Street Chichester PO19 1RQ	Monday to Thursday Friday	8:30am to 5pm 8:30am to 4:30pm

Fontwell Park Race-course	Fontwell Park Racecourse Arundel Road Fontwell BN18 0SY	Monday to Friday	9am to 5pm
South Downs Centre	South Downs Centre North Street Midhurst West Sussex GU29 9DH	Monday to Thursday Friday	9am to 4:30pm 9am to 4pm
Walber-ton Parish office	The Pavilion The Street Walberton Arundel BN18 0PJ	Tuesdays Thursdays	9am to 12pm 9am to 12pm
Worthing Library	Richmond Road Worthing BN11 1HD	Monday to Friday Saturday	9am to 6pm 9am to 5pm

Public supplementary consultation events

We have planned the following events in line with government guidance. Hard copies of all supplementary consultation materials will be available for inspection at these events and members of the project team will be on hand to speak to attendees. Where any supplementary consultation event referred to is cancelled or rearranged for any reason, including Covid-19 restrictions, as much notice as possible will be given. Notice of any alternative arrangements (if any are reasonably considered necessary) will be given as soon as possible after the cancellation or rearrangement is made. This may include alternative dates, venues and/or arrangements for the submission of representations. We will inform you of any cancellations or rearrangements via methods such as the Scheme's website and localised advertising.

Location:	Address:	Date:	Time:
Arundel Town Hall	Arundel Town Hall Maltravers Street Arundel West Sussex BN18 9AP	Saturday 3 December 2022	10am to 4pm
Fontwell Park Race-course	Fontwell Park Racecourse Arundel Road Fontwell BN18 OSY	Monday 5 December 2022	11am to 7pm
Walberton Pavilion	The Street Walberton Arundel West Sussex BN18 0PJ	Saturday 10 December 2022	10am to 4pm

Supplementary consultation materials can be supplied on a USB memory stick free of charge through the post on request (one per household) by contacting National Highways. If you do not have internet access and/or require a printed copy of consultation documents, please contact us. Paper copies of the supplementary consultation booklet and feedback form can be supplied free of charge on request by contacting National Highways (one per household). There may be a charge for requests for large quantities of documents. In addition, feedback forms can be printed out from https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/a27-arundel-bypass/. To request copies of the documents, please contact National Highways using the e-mail address, postal address or telephone number provided below:

- Email: a27arundelbypass@nationalhighways.co.uk
- Write: A27 Arundel Bypass Project Team
  National Highways
  Bridge House
  1 Walnut Tree Close
  Guildford
- Telephone: 0300 123 5000

If you are unable to attend any events or obtain the supplementary consultation material, please get in touch with us, so we can make adjustments where possible if necessary.

Providing feedback

Any person may comment on the proposals or otherwise respond to this supplementary
consultation. When providing your feedback, please include your name and address or, if you would prefer your comments to be anonymous, your postcode only. Please also confirm the nature of your interest in the Scheme. Please supply any feedback by:

a. Completing the online feedback form located on the Scheme website: **https://nationalhighways.co.uk/our-roads/south-east/a27-arundel-bypass/**
b. Attending a supplementary consultation event and completing a paper copy feedback form
c. Requesting or picking up a paper copy of the feedback form at one of our document deposit locations which can be returned via **Freepost A27 Arundel**
d. Alternatively, feedback can be sent to us by:
   i. emailing: a27arundelbypass@nationalhighways.co.uk or
   ii. writing to us: **Freepost A27 ARUNDEL**

Feedback must be received no later than 23:59pm on 16 December 2022.

National Highways will consider and have regard to all feedback received on the supplementary consultation material when developing the Scheme and the application for a Development Consent Order once the supplementary consultation has closed. Feedback will form the basis of a Consultation Report that will be submitted with the application and will be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, when deciding whether the Application can be accepted for examination. Therefore, in providing any comment, it should be borne in mind that the substance of it may be communicated to others as part of the Consultation Report.

If you would like further information about this notice, the supplementary consultation or the Scheme, please contact the project team by using one of the contact methods provided above.

National Highways' policy on managing personal data can be found at https://nationalhighways.co.uk/about-us/privacy-notice/

Andrew Jackson, Programme Leader, National Highways, 9 November 2022.

Call free today to find out how much you could release – 0808 500 1536

Unlock tax-free cash from your home

and pay off any outstanding mortgage, so you can achieve your retirement dreams.



Whether it's for a new opportunity or simply to improve your lifestyle, the money tied up in your home can help you realise your goals.

Equity release may involve a lifetime mortgage which is a loan secured against your home, or a home reversion plan, and the money plus accrued interest is repaid on death or entering long-term care

It's important to know that it reduces the value of your estate and requires paying off any existing mortgage. It may also affect any entitlement to means-tested benefits now or in the future.

Please ask us for a no-obligation personalised illustration which will explain the features, costs and risks.

ORDER YOUR **FREE** GUIDE TO EQUITY RELEASE

Age Partnership+

To find out how much cash you could release, or to request your FREE guide, call

Freephone 0808 500 1536

or visit agepartnership.co.uk/TheTimes

THE TIMES money mentor ACCREDITED BROKER Equity Release Spring 2022

Age Partnership Plus is a trading name of Age Partnership Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA registered number 425432. Company registered in England and Wales No. 5265969. VAT registration number 162 9355 92. Registered address, 2200 Century Way, Thorpe Park, Leeds, LS15 8ZB.. Correct at time of print.

Or return this coupon to get your FREE guide to equity release, to: Freepost Age Partnership

Title: .... Name: ....

Address: ....

Date of Birth: .... Postcode: .... Tel: .... Are you a homeowner? ❑

By supplying your address you are confirming that you are happy for Age Partnership+ to contact you via letter regarding products and services relevant to your enquiry. Age Partnership+ will contact you on the telephone number you are providing regarding your enquiry. For more information, please visit www.agepartnership.co.uk/plus/privacy or to request to opt out at any time, email enquiries@agepartnership.com

TheTimes_FP_Jun22

Why have a stairlift when you can have a real lift?

A homelift from Stiltz is discreet and attractive alternative to the stairlift. Available now from the UK's largest homelift provider.

Stairlift? No Thanks!

Why would you install a chair to travel up and down your stairs? After all, it gets in the way when you're trying to walk up or down, it's tricky to get on and off at the top of the stairs, and if you or the person using it needs a wheelchair or walking frame it means having one both upstairs and downstairs. It just doesn't make sense. With a homelift all you do is walk or wheel in, push the button and you're traveling between floors with safety, comfort, and ease.

Neat & Discreet

A Stiltz Homelift can be installed in almost any room in your home. Our smallest model has a footprint similar in size to a compact armchair and the curved lines help to further streamline the appearance. All Stiltz Homelifts plug into a dedicated standard domestic socket so don't need all the equipment which comes with hydraulic lifts, and the drive mechanism is hidden out of the way in the top of the lift car. Because the lift car runs up and down on its own vertical rails the whole installation is self-supporting. No other lift looks like it or works like it!

Furthermore, Stiltz Homelifts are so economical they've been proven to use less power than boiling a kettle.

Made for the Home

The majority of home lifts available in the UK are modified commercial lifts. Not so Stiltz Homelifts. Our vision from day one was to create lifts for everyone, and this means homelifts which are designed to work in a home from the outset. Every last detail has been thought about, from how the lift looks, through how it installs, to how it functions, how quiet it is and how cost-effective it is to run.



Elegant, practical and discreet. A Stiltz Homelift will transform your home and life.

Tried and Trusted

When Trustpilot reviewers refer to the Stiltz Homelift being 'a gamechanger, you KNOW you're doing something right. Reviewers also continually praise the cleanliness and professionalism of the surveyors, builders and installation teams.

"I could go upstairs when I wanted..."

Testimonial

"I've always been active, working as a police officer before re-training as a personal trainer. When I sustained my rugby injury resulting in the loss of use of my legs I had to work hard to readjust. With two children under the age of ten it became a must for me to live independently at home.

With the help of the RFU Injured Players Foundation, I was able to install a Stiltz Trio+ Wheelchair Homelift into my house. I can't begin to explain how significant this was for me. I could go upstairs when I wanted instead of relying on my partner to give me a piggy back. I could also read the kids their bedtime stories at their bedsides, just like any able-bodied Mum does.

With Stiltz I never felt sold to, nobody was pushy they just gave us all the information we needed to be able to make our own buying decision".



Dani Watts, Berkshire

Stiltz are very proud of the teams who work in customers' homes. We know our customers are concerned we might make a mess. But comments such as 'the installers left our home pristine', 'the building and installation teams were a joy to have in our home' and 'I can't praise the lads that come to do the work in our home enough', tells us our customers are overwhelmingly delighted with the work we do. Buy from a UK company who manufacture and install their own products using their own people, safe in the knowledge that if you need us, we are at the end of the phone in one of our three UK locations.

Homelifts for All

People buy homelifts for many different reasons. Some are wheelchair users who need immediate help with moving around the home and are looking for one of our larger lift models. Others are planning for the future and making their home secure for their golden years and are keen to install one of our stylish, compact models.

FREE, No-obligation Surveys

When you're ready, our UK-based team will be there to take your call. We can answer any questions you have and arrange for one of our Sales Advisors to visit at a convenient time. They will be able to help you decide which product will work for you and your home and provide specific answers relating to your property and lifestyle.

Your Home Lift questions answered

Q&A

Why should I consider a homelift rather than a stairlift?

A homelift is the ultimate future-proofing solution. A stairlift might seem like a good idea but what if a condition progresses to the point the user would find it impossible to get on and off a stairlift? With a homelift you can just step or wheel yourself in, and at the push of a button you're upstairs. No precarious perching on a seat at the top of the stairs!

How does a Stiltz differ from other homelifts?

A Stiltz Homelift has been developed specifically for use in the home – this isn't a commercial lift which has been retrospectively adapted into a homelift. Stiltz lifts also have some rather unique solutions. For instance, we have the ThruCar, perfect for wheelchair users as you can enter and exit the lift from opposite sides so there's no need to reverse into, or out of, the lift car.

Importantly, Stiltz manufacture, sell and install our own product. We do not rebadge or resell other companies' lifts.

Are you a UK-based company?

Yes. Stiltz Homelifts was founded in the UK. Our three main offices are in Berkshire, West Yorkshire, and the West Midlands. All the staff you'll talk to are based in the UK and research and development is carried out in our West Midlands headquarters. The homelifts are manufactured in our own factory in the Far East which is staffed 100% by Stiltz employees.

How easy is it to install the lift?

Very easy. We employ and train our own building and installation teams – Stiltz rarely use subcontractors. We carefully survey your property. Firstly, our Sales Advisor will visit and determine suitability, taking you through the lift ranges, pricing, and location options. Once you're happy to proceed, our Technical Surveyor will visit and thoroughly check your home to establish what needs to be done to ensure a successful installation. The notes they prepare will be used by our Operations Team to create a report for the builders and installers to work from. Everything is taken care of, even the lift which is modular and plugs into a dedicated standard domestic socket which we will install for you.

Now you CAN stay in the home you love

When children have flown the nest we can find ourselves wondering what the future might hold. Maybe we'd be better off in a smaller property? But what about all the memories and treasured belongings that surround us?

Downsizing is expensive and risky, moving home is stressful. If you love your home and you're surrounded by friends, family and an established support network, you might question whether moving is absolutely necessary. There's less pressure these days to downsize with a shift in opinion towards adapting the family home as we grow older. We call it 'aging in place'.

Today's mobility solutions are far more integrated than simply installing a functional handrail. Innovative and exciting products are emerging which are designed to discreetly adapt your home. This means it's possible to continue living in the family home without the worry of downsizing or moving house.

Stiltz Homelifts are at the forefront of the drive for aesthetics with their neat, discreet, quiet and life-changing domestic lifts. There really is no need for a stairlift that not only looks unattractive but provides a trip risk for others in the home who might use the stairs.

Design and styling is where a Stiltz Homelift really earns its stripes. Unlike any other homelift on the market the product's elegant look and feel has been designed to be admired but also to blend effortlessly into the background. Curved lines and a warm, soft, grey aluminium finish with a matching glazed lift car allows natural light to flood through the home. Subtle lighting will bring your lift to life whenever you step into it.

Queens award winners

In late April 2020 during the first lockdown, Stiltz Homelifts learned they had been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade. For a young company who have become established and successful in the traditional world of accessibility products which isn't typically known for being design and innovation led, this was a big deal.

Stiltz Homelifts have led the field in creating products that help users live full and independent lives at home. And it is this which sets them apart. Other homelifts are adaptations of commercial products but a Stiltz Homelift is designed – from the ground up if you like – to be used specifically in the home. It is this passion for creating well-designed products that are as good to look at as they are to use which has so caught the public's imagination.

For a FREE brochure or no obligation survey
Call FREE on 0808 302 9985 or visit www.stiltz.co.uk

*ask an adviser for details

Stiltz Homelifts

★★ PLEASE DO NOT DELAY, EXCLUSIVE BLACK FRIDAY FARES WILL INCREASE ★★



CUNARD

THE NO-FLY LUXURY BLACK FRIDAY SALE EVENT

FROM ONLY £829PP



COMPLIMENTARY ON BOARD SPEND OF UP TO $600*

OR

COMPLIMENTARY CAR PARKING# OR COACH TRANSFERS

EXCLUSIVE BLACK FRIDAY SAVINGS UP TO £560±

SAIL DIRECT FROM SOUTHAMPTON

JUST A DEPOSIT REQUIRED TO SECURE YOUR HOLIDAY

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE WITH READER OFFERS LTD

HERE WHEN YOU NEED US

- SPREAD THE COST OF YOUR HOLIDAY – PAYMENT PLANS AVAILABLE
- BOOK WITH THE TOP CRUISE PARTNER FOR CUNARD
- ABTA & ATOL PROTECTED

BOOK WITH ROL CRUISE CONFIDENCE

WHAT'S INCLUDED

IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD BLACK FRIDAY SALE

EXCLUSIVE BLACK FRIDAY SAVINGS OF UP TO £560± - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY, FARES WILL INCREASE

- Full board no-fly accommodation on board the iconic *Queen Victoria* including:
  - **COMPLIMENTARY** on board spending money of up to **$600*** – Enjoy on board spending money meaning you can treat yourself throughout your voyage; sip Champagne, enjoy some relaxing spa treatments or take those enriching shore excursions which create memories of a lifetime
  - **OR** car parking# **OR** coach transfers
  - White Star fine dining, bars and lounges, & 24-hour room service
  - Dance instruction and gentlemen host dancers
  - Enjoy a traditional afternoon tea – a signature Cunard experience of fine leaf teas, finger sandwiches and pastries
  - A variety of Cunard lectures and workshops
- **BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY WITH JUST A DEPOSIT**

EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES®

Earn up to **17,938** Cruise Miles®, worth **£179** when booking one of these fantastic cruises with Reader Offers Ltd††

NO-FLY SCANDINAVIAN DELIGHT

16 NIGHTS DEPARTING 9TH MAY 2023

Embark *Queen Victoria* and depart Southampton - Gothenburg, Sweden - Helsinki, Finland - Tallinn, Estonia - Stockholm, Sweden - Klaipėda, Lithuania - Gdynia, Poland - Copenhagen, Denmark - Arrive in Southampton

YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES FROM

STATEROOM/SUITE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Inside	~~£1,799~~	**£1,649**
Oceanview†	~~£1,999~~	**£1,939**
Balcony†	~~£2,299~~	**£2,139**
Club Balcony	**– SOLD OUT –**	
PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL		
Princess Suite	~~£6,049~~	**£5,869**
Queens Grill Suite	~~£7,649~~	**£7,399**

Solo fares are available from **£2,849**

NO-FLY NORWEGIAN FJORDS

7 NIGHTS DEPARTING 25TH JUNE 2023

Embark *Queen Victoria* and depart Southampton - Kristiansand, Norway - Bergen, Norway - Geiranger, Norway - *Cruise by Geirangerfjord* - *Cruise by Sunnylvsfjorden* - Haugesund, Norway - Arrive in Southampton

YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES FROM

STATEROOM/SUITE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Inside	~~£899~~	**£829**
Oceanview†	~~£1,099~~	**£1,069**
Balcony†	~~£1,449~~	**£1,299**
Club Balcony	**– SOLD OUT –**	
PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL		
Princess Suite	~~£2,849~~	**£2,759**
Queens Grill Suite	~~£3,799~~	**£3,685**

Solo fares are available from **£1,419**

NO-FLY SCOTTISH ISLES & ICELAND

14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 2ND JULY 2023

Embark *Queen Victoria* and depart Southampton - Greenock (for Glasgow), Scotland - Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland - Lerwick, Shetland Isles, Scotland - Akureyri, Iceland - Ísafjörður, Iceland - Reykjavík, Iceland (overnight) **- Arrive in Southampton**

YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES FROM

STATEROOM/SUITE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Inside	~~£1,899~~	**£1,649**
Oceanview†	~~£2,199~~	**£2,139**
Balcony†	~~£3,049~~	**£2,799**
Club Balcony	~~£5,649~~	**£5,479**
PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL		
Princess Suite	~~£6,249~~	**£6,059**
Queens Grill Suite (only 1 left)	~~£9,249~~	**£8,969**

Solo fares are available from **£2,839**

NO-FLY TREASURES OF THE BRITISH ISLES

12 NIGHTS DEPARTING 20TH AUGUST 2023

Embark *Queen Victoria* and depart Southampton - Newhaven (for Edinburgh), Scotland - Kirkwall, Orkney Isles, Scotland - Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland - Belfast, Northern Ireland - Liverpool, England - Holyhead, Wales - Arrive in Southampton

YOUR INCREDIBLE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES FROM

STATEROOM/SUITE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
Inside	~~£1,399~~	**£1,219**
Oceanview†	~~£1,639~~	**£1,589**
Balcony†	~~£1,949~~	**£1,795**
Club Balcony	~~£2,999~~	**£2,899**
PRINCESS & QUEENS GRILL		
Princess Suite	~~£4,099~~	**£3,975**
Queens Grill Suite	~~£6,349~~	**£6,159**

Solo fares are available from **£2,079**

BOOK WITH THE NO-FLY CRUISE EXPERTS, READER OFFERS LTD

Still deciding… then read more about why your next holiday should be a no-fly cruise by visiting www.rolcruise.co.uk/noflyexperts

www.rolcruise.co.uk

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE | Agent to ATOL Holder Cunard 6294 | ABTA ABTA No F9255

CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON **0808 239 6959**

QUOTE OFFER REF **629589**

OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30AM – 8PM

Platinum Trusted Service Award For consistently delivering excellence 2022 feefo

ROL CRUISE

Fares are based on two adults sharing, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offers apply to new bookings only. Some ports may require a tender. *On board spend is per stateroom/suite. #Car parking is based on one space for the duration of the cruise. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing Queens Grill Suite on 2nd July 2023. †Denotes obstructed view. Image is for illustrative purposes only. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. Cunard T&Cs apply. E&OE.

Weather

Today Sunny spells and scattered showers, with rain in Shetland and southern areas later. Max 14C (57F), min -1C (30F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	11	R	3.8	0.0
Aberporth	10	S	7.8	1.3
Anglesey	11	PC	5.2	0.0
Aviemore	11	C	3.2	2.2
Barnstaple	12	PC	16.2	**
Bedford	11	R	2.4	**
Belfast	10	**	8.4	0.5
Birmingham	12	R	8.0	**
Bournemouth	14	C	22.6	1.0
Bridlington	11	C	1.4	**
Bristol	12	C	12.8	1.7
Camborne	8	R	26.8	3.7
Cardiff	11	M	9.4	0.0
Edinburgh	9	R	3.8	1.2
Eskdalemuir	8	R	15.6	**
Glasgow	9	R	7.6	0.0
Hereford	11	C	7.4	**
Herstmonceux	12	R	2.8	2.6
Ipswich	11	R	3.2	4.3
Isle of Man	9	PC	7.6	0.1
Isle of Wight	14	R	13.4	**
Jersey	13	PC	8.8	1.2
Keswick	10	R	3.8	**
Kinloss	12	C	0.0	1.4
Leeds	9	C	9.2	**
Lerwick	10	M	1.0	0.0
Leuchars	11	R	4.8	0.0
Lincoln	11	R	5.2	0.0
Liverpool	10	R	8.0	**
London	13	R	3.0	0.4
Lyneham	10	C	12.2	0.9
Manchester	12	R	5.8	0.8
Margate	10	R	**	**
Milford Haven	11	S	10.2	**
Newcastle	9	R	5.2	**
Nottingham	11	R	5.0	0.0
Orkney	11	C	0.2	0.0
Oxford	13	R	7.4	**
Plymouth	13	C	16.8	**
Portland	13	C	11.2	**
Scilly, St Mary's	10	PC	8.6	**
Shoreham	12	R	7.4	1.0
Shrewsbury	11	C	6.6	0.0
Snowdonia	9	C	13.2	**
Southend	12	R	1.8	0.0
South Uist	10	C	17.4	**
Stornoway	10	R	6.6	0.0
Tiree	9	PC	12.8	0.4
Whitehaven	10	C	7.8	0.6
Wick	11	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	12	C	15.0	1.0

The world

All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	21	S	Madeira	23	PC
Amsterdam	12	PC	Madrid	15	B
Athens	18	PC	Malaga	23	PC
Auckland	22	DU	Mallorca	23	PC
Bahrain	29	PC	Malta	23	PC
Bangkok	31	PC	Melbourne	9	SH
Barbados	31	PC	Mexico City	26	S
Barcelona	19	S	Miami	30	B
Beijing	15	S	Milan	9	R
Beirut	23	PC	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	12	S	Montreal	1	B
Berlin	12	S	Moscow	-1	PC
Bermuda	24	B	Mumbai	34	S
Bordeaux	16	S	Munich	10	S
Brussels	12	S	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	8	DU	Naples	18	PC
Budapest	7	R	New Orleans	16	C
Buenos Aires	20	DU	New York	8	PC
Cairo	22	PC	Nice	17	B
Calcutta	28	S	Nicosia	24	PC
Canberra	16	PC	Oslo	4	C
Cape Town	21	PC	Paris	11	R
Chicago	5	B	Perth	26	S
Copenhagen	10	B	Prague	3	FG
Corfu	20	PC	Reykjavik	11	B
Delhi	27	S	Riga	6	D
Dubai	32	S	Rio de Janeiro	31	B
Dublin	10	PC	Riyadh	30	S
Faro	21	PC	Rome	16	S
Florence	10	R	San Francisco	14	PC
Frankfurt	12	R	Santiago	27	S
Geneva	11	B	São Paulo	24	PC
Gibraltar	21	B	Seoul	13	PC
Helsinki	3	B	Seychelles	30	PC
Hong Kong	28	PC	Singapore	31	B
Honolulu	29	PC	St Petersburg	1	SN
Istanbul	16	B	Stockholm	5	B
Jerusalem	23	PC	Sydney	21	B
Johannesburg	21	PC	Tel Aviv	23	PC
Kuala Lumpur	30	PC	Tenerife	28	S
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	12	R
Lanzarote	25	S	Vancouver	8	PC
Las Palmas	26	S	Venice	9	FG
Lima	17	DU	Vienna	7	M
Lisbon	18	R	Warsaw	6	B
Los Angeles	18	PC	Washington	9	PC
Luxor	26	S	Zurich	9	PC

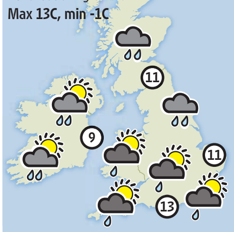
Five days ahead

Generally unsettled with periods of rain or showers, some colder nights with frost possible

Tomorrow

Windy with sunny spells and blustery showers, merging to give longer spells of rain in eastern Scotland and northeast England.

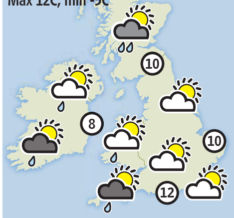
Max 13C, min -1C



Friday

A mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers, most frequent in the west. A widespread frost will follow overnight.

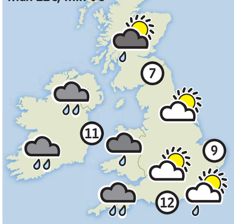
Max 12C, min -5C



Saturday

A cold, frosty, sunny start before cloud and rain spreads eastwards from the Atlantic.

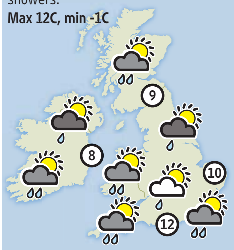
Max 12C, min 0C



Sunday

An unsettled day with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered heavy showers.

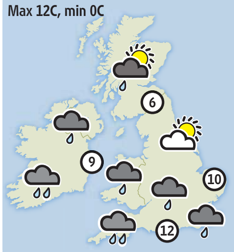
Max 12C, min -1C



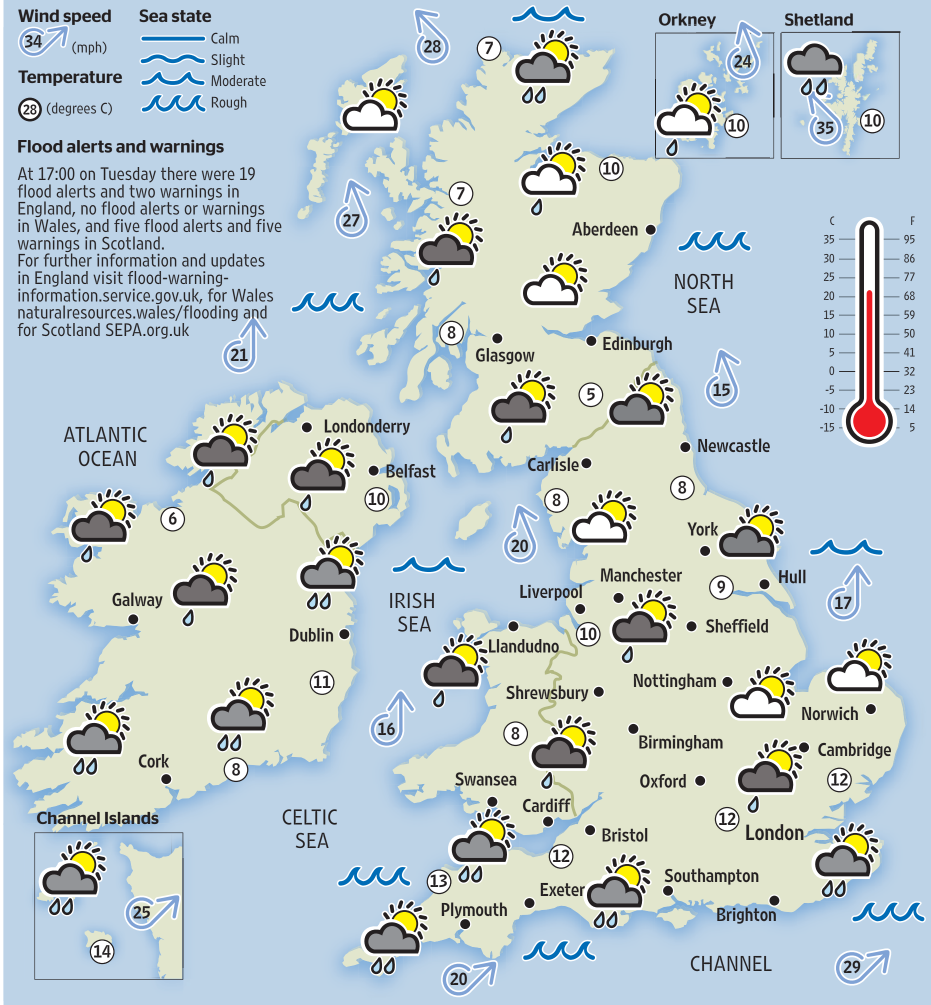
Monday

Rain and strong winds spreading northeastwards.

Max 12C, min 0C



The Times weather page is provided by Weatherquest



Flood alerts and warnings

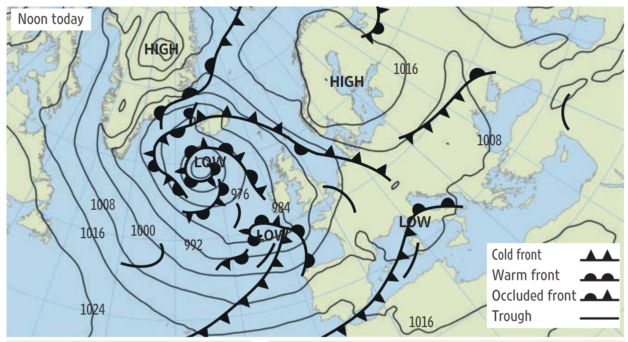
At 17:00 on Tuesday there were 19 flood alerts and two warnings in England, no flood alerts or warnings in Wales, and five flood alerts and five warnings in Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

General situation: Rain or showers, especially in the south.
SE Eng, Cen S Eng, SW Eng, S Wales, Channel Is: Sunny spells and scattered showers, some heavy and perhaps thundery, easing for a time before cloud and rain arrives through the afternoon. Light to fresh south or southwesterly winds, becoming fresh to near-gale southeasterly. Maximum 14C (57F), minimum 5C (41F).
N Wales, Midlands, E Anglia, London: Early fog patches clearing, otherwise a mixture of sunny spells and a few scattered showers, locally heavy. Light to moderate south or southeasterly winds. Maximum 13C (55F), minimum 5C (41F).
NW Eng, Cen N Eng, E Eng, NE Eng, Lake District, Scotland, IoM: Low cloud and fog clearing, much of the day will be dry with sunny spells but the chance of a few showers, especially in southwest and eastern Scotland, and later in the day in northern England. Light to moderate south or southeasterly winds. Maximum 12C (54F), minimum -1C (30F).
Shetland: Persistent rain with gale to severe gale southeasterly winds. Maximum 11C (52F), minimum 8C (46F).
N Ireland, Republic of Ireland: Fog could be slow to clear, especially in the Midlands. A few showers possible, with rain in southern areas in the afternoon. Light to moderate south or southeasterly winds. Maximum 11C (52F), minimum 0C (32F).

Tides

Tidal predictions. Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	06:36	3.3	18:43	3.4
Avonmouth	11:13	9.9	23:53	9.3
Belfast	04:05	2.9	16:23	3.2
Cardiff	11:10	9.2	--:--	--
Devonport	10:01	4.5	22:39	4.2
Dover	03:47	5.4	16:32	5.1
Dublin	04:55	3.2	17:09	3.4
Falmouth	09:50	4.2	22:31	3.8
Greenock	05:09	2.8	17:05	3.2
Harwich	03:56	3.4	16:38	3.3
Holyhead	03:08	4.3	15:27	4.5
Hull	11:03	5.6	23:00	5.7
Leith	07:38	4.3	19:58	4.4
Liverpool	03:40	7.1	16:07	7.2
London Bridge	05:44	5.8	18:28	5.8
Lowestoft	01:49	2.3	15:38	2.1
Milford Haven	10:50	5.3	23:34	4.9
Morecambe	03:53	6.9	16:20	7.1
Newhaven	03:33	5.2	15:51	4.9
Newquay	09:46	5.4	22:31	5.0
Oban	10:23	3.1	--:--	--
Penzance	09:24	4.4	22:08	4.0
Portsmouth	04:07	3.9	16:20	3.8
Shoreham	03:40	4.9	16:00	4.6
Southampton	02:51	3.7	14:56	3.5
Swansea	10:55	7.1	23:37	6.7
Tees	08:49	4.3	21:00	4.5
Weymouth	10:39	1.5	23:35	1.2



Synoptic situation

A complex area of low pressure over the Atlantic will maintain an unsettled flavour to the weather across the British Isles. Persistent rain and gale force winds will impact Shetland courtesy of a stalled front, while a new area of low pressure approaching from the southwest brings longer spells of rain into southern parts of Britain and Ireland.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Heathrow, 14.6C
Coldest: Aonach Mor, 1.8C
Wettest: Cardinham, Cornwall, 28.0mm
Sunniest: Wattisham, Suffolk, 4.3hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 07.19
Sun sets: 16.09
Moon rises: 23.01
Moon sets: 14.04 Thu
New moon: November 23

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	16:23-07:25
Belfast	16:50-07:27
Birmingham	16:43-07:02
Cardiff	16:52-07:04
Exeter	16:56-07:02
Glasgow	16:38-07:27
Liverpool	16:44-07:11
London	16:40-06:52
Manchester	16:40-07:08
Newcastle	16:31-07:12
Norwich	16:30-06:50
Penzance	17:06-07:08
Sheffield	16:38-07:04

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



November can be a notoriously foggy month, and it was 390 years ago that a shroud of fog caused chaos at the Battle of Lützen in Saxony. It was during the Thirty Years War between Protestants and Catholics in Europe, and when the Protestant cause was facing defeat. In 1632 King Gustavus Adolphus II of Sweden came to the rescue, leading his highly-trained army and had the Catholic forces under Albrecht von Wallenstein in retreat. By November the weather turned bitterly cold and Wallenstein retreated to Leipzig, believing the Swedes would stop fighting over the winter. But Adolphus pressed on, hoping to catch Wallenstein by surprise at Lützen on the plains of Saxony.

The morning of November 16 dawned heavy with fog and delayed fighting, but it began to lift and the battle began with artillery fire followed by salvos from muskets. The firing guns would have poured smoke into what was undoubtedly damp, calm conditions and created a smoggy atmosphere. And when Wallenstein ordered the town of Lützen to be set ablaze to save it from capture, it sent more smoke billowing across the battlefield.

Into this shroud of thick, murky air the Swedish army charged but in a furious battle faced stiff resistance in chaotic conditions. Both sides suffered terrible casualties, forcing them to reorganise their forces. But at the height of the battle, Adolphus led a charge into the enemy lines and became lost, quite literally, in the fog of war. The king was struck by gunfire, fell and died. When his horse was later found riderless the Swedes knew their commander had been killed, but still they pressed on.

Eventually, Wallenstein retreated from the battlefield leaving behind his artillery, and later the whole of Saxony was overrun. The Swedes claimed victory but it came at a great cost in casualties, and above all they had lost their charismatic commander. So profound was the fog at Lützen that to this day the Swedish often call thick fog "Lützendimma".

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 77 76 75

8am to 6pm daily (calls charged at £1.50 per minute plus network extras)

weatherquest

For more information on the services we can provide, visit our website: www.weatherquest.co.uk

TIMES Travel Offers

Rugby World Cup 2023 Final



Gullivers sports travel

Travel to Paris on the Eurostar from St Pancras. Arriving in Paris we will transfer you by coach to your hotel where you can check in for a two-night stay for Rugby World Cup France 2023. Welcome to France's capital city. Tickets to the main event on the Saturday are included to the 2023 Rugby World Cup final. Watch the 2023 Rugby World Cup final and witness history live! On the Sunday after the final you will be transferred back to the Eurostar for your return back to St Pancras.

Price Includes
✓Official Match tickets for the 2023 Rugby World Cup final – Category Four – options to upgrade
✓Return Eurostar to Paris
✓Eurostar transfers
✓Gullivers representatives
✓Two nights accommodation in Paris with breakfast at the four-star Hotel Dress Code
✓Gullivers Clubhouse event included for all Times readers

RUGBY WORLD CUP FRANCE 2023 OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENT

THREE DAYS FROM **£2,499*** per person

Departures October 27, 2023

CALL TODAY 0808 189 1957

QUOTE TIMES-PR

thetimes.co.uk/rwcfinal2023

*Prices are correct at time of going to press. Price based on two sharing. Single supplement applies. The offer is subject to availability and Gullivers Sports Travel reserve the right to change or withdraw the offer. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Gullivers Sports Travel, ABTA V8321 ATOL 3720 protected, a company wholly independent of News UK. Some images courtesy of Getty Images.

ABTA Travel with confidence



ASK YOUR SMART SPEAKER TO PLAY VIRGIN RADIO

Sport

Trivial? Sport's life-enhancing power is as strong as ever

Matthew Syed



Despite the heartbreak, this was one of the most pulsating weekends of sport in living memory. England lost to New Zealand in a remarkable women's rugby union World Cup final at Eden Park, won a majestic T20 cricket final against Pakistan at the MCG and lost to Samoa in a rugby league World Cup semi-final so epic that they could turn it into a Netflix mini-series. Oh, and Brentford turned over Manchester City in the Premier League — and much more besides.

When I was a sixth-former and told a careers adviser that I wanted to spend my life in sport, he had to work pretty hard not to laugh. In the 1980s, with football mired in hooliganism and computer games and gizmos coming to the fore, it was widely assumed that activities involving bats, balls and shuttlecocks — many reaching back decades, if not centuries — were stuck in the past. The future would be one of virtual reality and space exploration, and sport would fade away.

How wrong these predictions have turned out to be. Sport continues to grow, not just in the money it generates but in its capacity to evoke awe and drama. I felt almost moved to tears by the women's World Cup final, a valiant England team expending every ounce of effort to hold back the floodgates after losing a player to a red card in the 18th minute, fighting for every ball, straining every sinew, even as the timer sounded at 80 minutes and they had one last chance with a lineout.

Has there been a more stirring evocation of teamwork, not just from the England women but the New Zealanders too? England's driving maul was a masterpiece of collective intensity, players joining to replace those that had been cast aside, steel injected through the experience of working together over months and years. At times New Zealand looked powerless to repel it, being pushed back like sands in the face of an oncoming tide.

But New Zealand created their own kind of magic, the try by Stacey Fluhler one of the finest of the competition. She smiled as she shimmied past the England backs and made the inside pass to Renee Holmes, continuing on her run before beckoning again as she found space up against the byline. Then, as she took the return pass in her stride and realised that she was going to make the tryline, she broke into the most infectious grin. Despite the pain of the moment, the hearts of English fans couldn't help but rise to meet her.



FIONA GOODALL/WORLD RUGBY/GETTY IMAGES

Fluhler's joy is clear after her crucial try for New Zealand in the World Cup final

Over in the rugby league, England and Samoa were going toe to toe, another match that had everything you could wish for. The try by Samoa early in the second half — a dancing, shimmying run followed by the ball being juggled through the team, like a sequence of dominos falling in mid-air — was astonishing. England's response was equally rousing, the surging run by George Williams that released Herbie Farnworth to equalise in the dying minutes took the match to a golden-point thriller. By the end, I was emotionally wrung out.

Sport a thing of the past? If these games didn't exist we would have to invent them. What else provides such escapism from news of war and crisis? What else provides an outlet for collective joy? In the cricket, it was wonderful to see the Pakistani fans full of voice and colour during the T20 cricket final, despite Ben Stokes wreaking his own kind of havoc with the bat. As for England, after the match they strode to the lower tier of the Shane Warne Stand to share in the celebrations with travelling fans as the tears flowed.

And forgive me for mentioning the Brentford victory against City, not least because my father-in-law is a lifelong supporter of the west London club. Ivan Toney was like Apollo up front, his strength and purpose striking fear into City. I glanced at Twitter and noticed the tidal wave of astonishment as chance after chance came the way of Brentford, despite the dominance of possession by City, until the denouement in the ninth minute of added time, when Toney stole in again to clinch victory.

And isn't this another of the magical qualities of sport: the capacity to shock? Richard Scudamore, formerly the chief executive of the Premier League, described it as "unscripted drama", a phrase that encapsulates the inherent unpredictability when two competing wills clash on the field of play. Other forms of cultural entertainment are wonderful but they are also categorically different. *Henry V*, for instance, is one of Shakespeare's finest histories (and I much enjoyed a production at The Globe three years ago), but you know before the curtain goes up that England are going to triumph at Agincourt.

Perhaps this is why, at its best, sport can help us — young people in particular — to develop character. As England's women fell short in the rugby union, my mind travelled back to another contest involving the same two nations with a result that went the other way: the final of the 50-over cricket World Cup in 2019. On that occasion, it was England who came through (Stokes to the fore again, on the same afternoon that Novak Djokovic overcame Roger Federer in a match of sustained drama at Wimbledon), in a Super Over that brought the nation to a standstill.

Yet you may remember that, in the mêlée of the run chase, the umpires made a critical mistake, signalling six runs after a chance ricochet off the bat of Stokes as he dived to make his ground in the last over. It was a moment that turned the match, even if it received scant coverage in the English press. And yet despite their disappointment, and perhaps a sense of injustice too, the New Zealanders walked purposefully over to the England players to offer their hands in warm congratulation. It's a memory I shall take to the grave.

We sometimes describe sport as trivial but that is true only if joy is trivial, if shared experiences are trivial, if the learning gained in adversity is trivial. In the end, life is enhanced by these games in so many ways, subtle and profound. And I can't help wondering: has sport got better over the years, or is it rather that one learns to find new things to appreciate? Either way, perhaps we can all say: roll on next weekend.



Smeed's decision is sensible, but risky

Steve James



At Somerset they are calling Will Smeed the "guinea pig", and it is certainly some experiment that the 21-year-old batsman is undertaking by signing a white-ball only contract with his county.

Others, like Alex Hales, have already trodden this path, but no one has attempted it so young and without even one first-class appearance to their name. So Smeed is attempting something very different here.

But there is no need for an overreaction about the future of the game and suchlike. It is an entirely sensible decision. Smeed, muscular and fearless, is a chillingly destructive white-ball opener, as evidenced most notably by his scoring of the Hundred's first century last season. He is going to be a star.

At the moment, though, he is just not very good at red-ball cricket. Last season, batting at No 5, he averaged only 15.57 in his five four-day matches for Somerset's second XI.

It may be a mental problem (why field for days on end when you can earn a lot more doing it for only 20 overs?) as much as a technical one (he is heavily leg-side dominant). But for now, it is easy to see why both he and Somerset consider this to be the most practical solution.

If Smeed is picked up in the Indian Premier League auction next month (it will be a surprise if he isn't), he will not be available for the start of the English season anyway, and there are so many other opportunities for him aside from the Hundred and the Vitality T20 Blast — at the Pakistan Super League, the Abu Dhabi T10 and the new UAE league, the ILT20. Then there are his England aspirations, which were enhanced considerably when making 90 off 56 balls against South Africa for England Lions last season. All of this makes it difficult to see where he can slot in any significant focus on red-ball cricket.



CHRISTOPHER LEE/ECB/GETTY IMAGES

The big-hitting Smeed has opted to concentrate fully on the Hundred and other short-form tournaments around the world

That innings for the Lions at Taunton came against a South African attack that included Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje and Marco Jansen, showing that the 50-over format is one in which Smeed can clearly also excel.

For now he is flying and is rightly going to take all these wonderful opportunities. With franchise cricket and its private investment growing ever stronger and more influential, the red and white-ball games have never been cast so far apart, as recognised by England's smart decision to split their coaching roles.

Glamorgan have just appointed Matthew Maynard as red-ball coach only and are seeking a white-ball coach, and it will be interesting to see how counties do deal with this changing landscape.

Indeed, last season a director of cricket at another county suggested to me that the whole traditional coaching infrastructure at counties was no longer fit for purpose, raising the idea that he would look to use specialists on short-term deals rather than have a full-time coaching staff who are almost idle for long periods both in and out of season when so many players are away.

We should not, however, overlook the risk Smeed is taking. Short-form batting at the top of the order requires a unique blend of selflessness and aggression. Falling into a scoreless rut can happen quite easily, as Jason Roy discovered this year. Obvious as it may sound, all batters want to score big runs, and the usual method of reviving one's touch by spending time in the middle is denied to players always asked to play that dominating role.

Andy Flower, the former England head coach and now a franchise coach around the world, made a telling point when I was researching a piece on Hales recently.

"I think these days he is suffering from not playing first-class cricket and some of the technical disciplines involved with that," Flower said of Hales. "He went through a period last year, I thought, where he kept opening up his front leg to almost every ball. He was in the same position and would play a shot from there. There are not many batsmen in the world that will be very consistent doing that."

The position that Flower is talking about is for power-hitting. It is the one that Smeed uses so well, but he would do well to take heed of those words from Flower, as well as these too: "This year he [Hales] has been better, playing some more conventional cricket shots. He's getting in better positions. Consequently, he is much more consistent at the moment."

Eoin Morgan also once told me how he always played better in white-ball cricket when he could fit in some County Championship action with Middlesex.

The truth is that the basics of batting remain as important as ever, despite the huge advances in hitting and improvisation, and it would not surprise me if one day, Smeed decides to return to the red-ball game, just to help his white-ball equivalent.

England must rally for unwanted game

Geoffrey Dean Adelaide

After the euphoria of their T20 World Cup win on Sunday comes the stark necessity for England to lift themselves for three tough one-day internationals against Australia, the first of which starts tomorrow in Adelaide. A number of the players admit it is a series they do not want, but after Australia's gesture in coming to England for three ODIs in the Covid summer of 2020, the ECB was duty bound to reciprocate on Australian soil at the first opportunity.

Australia v England
First ODI
Adelaide Oval
Tomorrow, 3.20am
TV: BT Sport 1
(Highlights at 11.45am)

Australia won that series 2-1, all the matches being played in September at one venue, Old Trafford, because of Covid restrictions. A century by Glenn Maxwell in the final game swept Australia to their target of 303, but the Victorian all-rounder will be absent after breaking a leg in multiple places at a friend's 50th birthday party in Melbourne. Pat Cummins becomes both Test and one-day captain of Australia after Aaron Finch's retirement.

Still smarting from their elimination in the group stage of the T20 World Cup, Australia, who are otherwise at full strength, will be itching to reverse the result of the previous one-day series against England here, in January 2018, which the touring side won 4-1.

England's solitary defeat in that series came at Adelaide, when they collapsed to eight for five in seamer-friendly conditions, and did well to make 196. Although Australia lost seven wickets, they won with 13 overs to spare. Travis Head, who top-scored with 96 that day, returns to open the batting tomorrow in place of Finch.

While the Australian XI looks a straightforward selection, with the final spot a choice between Cameron Green and a third specialist seamer, England's line-up appears less certain. A 15-man group includes 11 members of the T20 squad but no Alex Hales, Ben Stokes, Liam Livingstone or Mark Wood. Joe Root is likewise rested.

Jason Roy is back in contention but unless Dawid Malan is ruled out by the injury that cost him his place in the T20 semi and final, there is surely room for only two of him, James Vince and Phil Salt at the top of the order.

Salt and Roy both played in England's last completed ODI, a 118-run victory over South Africa in July at Old Trafford. Vince, who has not featured for England since making a matchwinning hundred against Pakistan at Edgbaston in July last year, looks the more likely to play after Roy's dearth of runs in England last summer.

Unless Sam Curran or Chris Woakes is rested, England will need to prune two from Chris Jordan, David Willey, Olly Stone and Luke Wood. Although Stone last played an ODI in October 2018 against Sri Lanka, his extra pace in the absence of Mark Wood may win him a spot. Luke Wood, who was given two T20 appearances for England in Pakistan in September, is likely to have to wait until later in the series to make his 50-over debut.

For Australia, Alex Carey, who scored a hundred in their previous encounter against England, returns as wicketkeeper, with no room for Matthew Wade. Sean Abbott replaces Maxwell in the squad, but is unlikely to feature in Adelaide. Josh Hazlewood talked yesterday of Australia's "very, very disappointing" exit from the T20 World Cup. "We never played our best cricket throughout the tournament at all," he said. Expect a reaction from the Australians, after having to observe England's long celebrations.

Australia (probable): D Warner, T Head, M Labuschagne, S Smith, M Stoinis, M Marsh, A Carey, P Cummins (capt), M Starc, A Zampa, J Hazelwood.
England (from): J Vince, P Salt, J Roy, D Malan, M Ali, J Buttler (c), S Billings, C Woakes, S Curran, C Jordan, D Willey, A Rashid, O Stone, L Dawson, L Wood.

Pakistan Test could be moved

Elizabeth Ammon

The venue for England's opening Test in Pakistan when they tour the country for the first time in 17 years could be moved to Karachi as political unrest continues in Rawalpindi.

A back-up itinerary for next month's tour is being discussed between the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the ECB, which would keep the dates of the three Tests the same, but with Karachi hosting the first and third matches in the series. Multan would remain the second venue.

Rawalpindi was due to host the first Test, starting on December 1, but the city is home to the army's headquarters and is close to the capital, Islamabad, where there have been violent protests since the assassination attempt on the former prime minister, Imran Khan, two weeks ago. Imran's political party is planning a march on the capital at the end of this month, which is when England are due to arrive in Rawalpindi.

England have not played a Test in Karachi since 2000. The PCB is expected to confirm in the next few days whether it plans to move the first Test.

Warne death Covid claim

CONTINUED FROM BACK

inflammation in the arteries of the heart. Shane Warne had lots of risk factors for heart disease, but if he was going to get a bit of extra inflammation from Covid, that could have tipped him over the edge."

Dr Swan, who has been a regular fixture in Australian living rooms throughout the pandemic, referred to a recent study by the universities of Bristol, Cambridge, Edinburgh and Swansea. This found that people are 21 times more likely to suffer a heart attack or stroke in the first week after testing positive for Covid. This drops to 3.9 times more likely after four weeks, according to the study of 48 million unvaccinated patients.

Although the exact cause of Warne's heart attack is not known, he was a heavy smoker and had a notoriously poor diet that included meat pies, pizza and white-bread lasagne sandwiches.

He was also prone to crash dieting and bouts of rigorous exercise, which can put strain on the heart. Warne was said to have completed a 14-day liquid diet shortly before he died.

Warwick
Rob Wright

12.45 Restitution
1.15 Gitche Gumee
1.45 Lookaway
2.15 Lily The Pink
2.45 Jonbon
3.15 Lostintranslation
3.45 Rose And Thistle

Going: good to soft, good in places — **Racing TV**

12.45 Handicap Hurdle (£4,084: 2m 3f) (10 runners)

1 252-0 **MADE FOR YOU** 187 (T,D) O Murphy 7-12-0 **Daire Davis (10)**
2 /212- **GREGOR** 486 (BF) D Skelton 6-12-0 **F Gillard**
3 22P-1 **GETAWEAPON** 22 K Bailey 7-12-0 **K Lenihan (10)**
4 0-221 **WARRANTY** 16 G L Moore 5-12-0 **C Quinn (6)**
5 14-21 **RESTITUTION** F26 A King 4-11-13 **A Thorne**
6 2333- **GO STEADY** 243 (T) D Skelton 10-11-12 **T Durrell (3)**
7 4-126 **MARAJMAN** 154 (P,T,D) C & A Pogson 8-11-9 **L Dobb (5)**
8 110-4 **MERRY MISTRESS** 32 David Dennis 6-11-5 **Lilly Pinchin**
9 0005- **GRIZZLY JAMES** 247 (W) V Williams 6-11-0 **Ned Fox (8)**
10 21-43 **SINNDARELLA** 22 Sarah Hollinshead 6-10-13 **C Ward**

4-1 Warranty, 9-2 Restitution, Gregor, Getaweapon, 8-1 Made For You, 10-1 Go Steady, 12-1 Grizzly James, 14-1 Merry Mistress.

Rob Wright's choice: Restitution should be sharp after a recent run on the flat **Dangers** Made For You, Warranty

1.15 NH Novices' Hurdle (£3,540: 2m) (18)

1 1-1 **GITCHE GUMEE** 20 (D) A King 4-11-7 **T Cannon**
2 260 **ALWAYS BUSY** 14 Christian Williams 4-11-0 **J Tudor**
3 32 **AMERICAN LAND** 32 Joe Tizzard 4-11-0 **B J Powell**
4 1- **AMRONS SAGE** 241 N Henderson 5-11-0 **N De Boinville**
5 66F-0 **ARDENAY** 22 Christian Williams 5-11-0 **E Collier (7)**
6 032-6 **BARNARDS GREEN** 20 N Mulholland 6-11-0 **A Wedge**
7 44-F4 **BASHERS REFLECTION** 16 (T) B Case 5-11-0 **J Quinlan**
8 665-0 **FAME AND FUN** 16 P Nicholls 5-11-0 **H Cobden**
9 0 **LUMINARIES** 60 N Mulholland 5-11-0 **T Scudamore**
10 **PRIDE ROCK** Jonjo O'Neill 4-11-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
11 4-3 **SAILED AWAY** 49 (T) Alexandra Dunn 4-11-0 **P Armson (3)**
12 4-4 **UNSTOPPABLE** 32 (H) Miss J Davis 4-11-0 **J M Davies**
13 0/6 **WILLIAM OF YORK** 18 D Skelton 6-11-0 **H Skelton**
14 334-0 **YELLOWSTONE PARK** 20 A Hales 6-11-0 **K Woods**
15 P1-0 **YEOMEN WARDER** 22 D Skelton 5-11-0 **D England**
16 06 **YOUCONDUIT** 165 G Brown 4-11-0 **R McLernon**
17 00-P **BLUE SUEDE SHOES** 28 N Mulholland 5-10-7 **S Twiston-Davies**
18 033-0 **KIMBERLEY EVE** 14 (T) I Williams 4-10-7 **C Todd**

Evens Gitche Gumee, 9-2 Amrons Sage, 8-1 American Land, 12-1 Pride Rock, 14-1 Sailed Away, 16-1 William Of York, 20-1 Yellowstone Park, Luminaries.

Wright choice: Gitche Gumee won in impressive style at Stratford **Dangers** Yellowstone Park, Bashers Reflection

1.45 Novices' Hurdle (£3,540: 2m 5f) (13)

1 41-1 **SPRING MEADOW** 24 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 **S Twiston-Davies**
2 0P-0 **ALLANAH'S BOY** 193 W Greatrex 5-11-0 **T Scudamore**
3 54-0P **CARRIG CRUA** 36 Christian Williams 6-11-0 **J Tudor**
4 1/10- **ERNEST GRAY** 221 A King 5-11-0 **T Cannon**
5 31-3 **GETUPEARLY** 20 P Hobbs 5-11-0 **T J O'Brien**
6 21-4 **GINNY'S DESTINY** 24 (BF) T Lacey 6-11-0 **S Sheppard**
7 041-P **HITTHEKETTLE** 10 M Gates 6-11-0 **C Ring (3)**
8 1 **KAITUNA RIVER** 172 A Hales 5-11-0 **K Woods**
9 111- **LOOKAWAY** 221 N King 5-11-0 **J Quinlan**
10 1/4-3 **MEXICO** 24 S Edmunds 6-11-0 **C Gethings**
11 1- **THE BREW MASTER** 381 (W) N Henderson 5-11-0 **N De Boinville**
12 3-3 **GET UP MUSH** 27 D Skelton 4-10-13 **H Skelton**
13 0-50 **HUNSBURY** 22 Tracey Leeson 4-10-13 **Mr James Turner (7)**

11-4 Lookaway, 9-2 Ernest Gray, 11-2 Get Up Mush, 6-1 The Brew Master, 13-2 Mexico, 15-2 Spring Meadow, 8-1 Ginny's Destiny, 16-1 Kaituna River.

Wright choice: Lookaway landed a grade two bumper at Aintree in April **Dangers** Mexico, Ernest Gray

2.15 Handicap Chase (£4,084: 2m 4f) (4)

1 4122/ **LILY THE PINK** 606 (T,BF) A Honeyball 8-12-0 **R Dingle**
2 1454- **SWINCOMBE FLEAT** 241 A Honeyball 6-11-13 **A Coleman**
3 132-P **WALK IN CLOVER** 20 (P) D Skelton 5-11-7 **H Skelton**
4 25042 **LOST CONNECTIONS** 16 (T) Katy Price 6-11-0 **T Bellamy**

11-8 Lily The Pink, 3-1 Swincombe Fleat, 7-2 Walk In Clover, 4-1 Lost Connections.

Wright choice: Lily The Pink, a useful hurdler two seasons ago, can make a winning chasing debut **Danger** Swincombe Fleat

2.45 Novices' Chase (£9,530: 2m) (3)

1 1121- **JONBON** 222 N Henderson 6-11-4 **A Coleman**
2 /542- **MONMIRAL** 223 P Nicholls 5-11-4 **H Cobden**
3 42-F2 **WEST CORK** 15 (T) D Skelton 8-11-4 **H Skelton**

1-2 Jonbon, 5-2 Monmiral, 8-1 West Cork.

Wright choice: Jonbon was beaten just once over hurdles; looks the type to make a better chaser **Danger** Monmiral

3.15 Handicap Chase (£15,609: 3m) (12)

1 5P00- **LOSTINTRANSLATION** 221 (T) Joe Tizzard 10-12-0 **B J Powell**
2 44/0- **CEPAGE** 340 V Williams 10-12-0 **C Deutsch**
3 /4U-5 **DE RASHER COUNTER** 25 (D) E Lavelle 10-11-11 **T Bellamy**
4 111P- **SNOW LEOPARDESS** 221 (D) C Longsdon 10-11-10 **A Coleman**
5 2P6-2 **WISHING AND HOPING** 24 (P) M Rowley 12-11-6 **A Edwards (3)**
6 1115- **CELEBRE D'ALLEN** 244 (C) P Hobbs 10-11-4 **T J O'Brien**
7 1P2-P **WANDRIN STAR** 187 (T,D) K Bailey 11-11-2 **D Bass**
8 34P4- **RAMSES DE TEILLEE** 298 (W,T,D) D Pipe 10-11-1 **T Scudamore**
9 P26U- **COBOLOBO** 222 (P,T,D) Jonjo O'Neill 10-10-8 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
10 /133- **CALIPSO COLLONGES** 284 (P,T) O Murphy 10-10-5 **L Stones**
11 P00-6 **POTTERS CORNER** 202 Christian Williams 12-10-5 **J Tudor**
12 1P50- **GWENCILY BERBAS** 242 (W,P,T) D Pipe 11-10-5 **D Noonan**

7-2 Celebre D'Allen, 5-1 Snow Leopardess, Lostintranslation, 8-1 Wishing And Hoping, 10-1 Ramses De Teillee, De Rasher Counter, 12-1 others.

Wright choice: Lostintranslation was well beaten in the Grand National **Dangers** Snow Leopardess, Celebre D'Allen

3.45 Open NH Flat Race (£2,178: 2m) (18)

1 **ANNE BONNY** N Mulholland 4-11-0 **S Twiston-Davies**
2 32-4 **BLACKHORSE LADY** 22 Mitchell Hunt 5-11-0 **Sean Houlihan**
3 **BLUE ANCHOR** (W) P Hobbs 4-11-0 **T J O'Brien**
4 25- **BLUE HEAVEN** 541 (W,T,BF) C Dyson 5-11-0 **N De Boinville**
5 4 **FORTUNE FOREVER** 57 (BF) F O'Brien 4-11-0 **P Brennan**
6 **HARTHILL** David Dennis 4-11-0 **T Bellamy**
7 22-0 **ILARY DE L'ECU** 193 (W,T) A Hales 4-11-0 **K Woods**
8 3 **MAGISTRA EQUITUM** 149 F O'Brien 4-11-0 **C Brace**
9 **MOLLIE BROWN** A Honeyball 4-11-0 **A Coleman**
10 5-1 **ON SE CALME** 179 A King 4-11-0 **T Cannon**
11 F **OUR NEL** 198 (BF) H Fry 4-11-0 **B Bromley (7)**
12 **POLLYONESOCK** A Ralph 4-11-0 **R Patrick**
13 **ROSE AND THISTLE** K Bailey 5-11-0 **D Bass**
14 31 **SHIROCCOSMAGICGEM** 172 T Gallagher 4-11-0 **Mr J Reddington (7)**
15 **SMURFETTE** D Skelton 4-11-0 **H Skelton**
16 **SPICE HEAVEN** J Snowden 4-11-0 **J J Burke**
17 333 **WALK OF NO SHAME** 21 Jonjo O'Neill 5-11-0 **Jonjo O'Neill Jr**
18 **WHISPERONTHEWIND** (H) M Rowley 4-11-0 **A Edwards (3)**

11-2 Fortune Forever, 7-1 On Se Calme, 8-1 Mollie Brown, 10-1 Smurfette, Rose And Thistle, Walk Of No Shame, Blue Anchor, Magistra Equitum.

Wright choice: Rose And Thistle, whose dam won a bumper, appeals **Dangers** Ilary De L'Ecu, On Se Calme

Hexham
Rob Wright

12.23 Court At Slip
12.53 Crystal Glory
1.23 You Wear It Well
1.53 Milldam
2.23 Storm Lorenzo
2.53 Fourth Of July
3.23 Battle Of Toro

Going: good to soft — **Sky Sports Racing**

12.23 Handicap Hurdle (£3,758: 2m 4f) (16)

1 -4445 **FATHERS ADVICE** 18 R M Smith 5-12-0 **W Shanahan (7)**
2 F014- **COURT AT SLIP** 221 (P,D) T Easterby 5-12-0 **B Hughes**
3 U0-56 **PIAFF BUBBLES** 19 (H,BF) R Menzies 6-11-13 **N Moscrop**
4 1-211 **ON WE GO** 145 G Boanas 9-11-13 **Sean Quinlan**
5 466-0 **WANDERING WEST** 27 M Walford 4-11-12 **J Hamilton**
6 30660 **MAILLOT BLANC** 22 Mrs S Leech 5-11-9 **Miss Roisin Leech**
7 UF04- **LARGE ACTION** 221 R Fell 6-11-8 **K Brogan**
8 -0002 **HUMPS AND BUMPS** 54 (P) D Brooke 9-11-8 **H Brooke**
9 F60-6 **HIDEO** 183 (P) M Hammond 5-11-6 **Emma Smith-Chaston (5)**
10 060-6 **LE FOU'S KEEP** 175 (T) H Burns 7-11-3 **C Bewley**
11 4-054 **CORAL BLUE** 11 D Bourke 7-11-2 **R Chapman**
12 P0/40 **THE GREAT GEORGIE** 27 Mrs J Stephen 7-11-1 **Craig Nichol**
13 -3524 **ATOMIC ANGEL** 31 (C) S Corbett 7-11-0 **D Hurst (7)**
14 6-PU6 **STRIKE OF LIGHTING** 150 G Bewley 6-11-0 **J Bewley (3)**
15 3-660 **YOUR PLACE** 23 (P) L Russell 6-10-12 **Conner McCann (7)**
16 F2-50 **LEWA HOUSE** 23 Catch Bissett 6-10-12 **B Lynn (5)**

7-2 On We Go, 9-2 Court At Slip, 7-1 Piaff Bubbles, Atomic Angel, 8-1 Coral Blue, 10-1 Humps And Bumps, 12-1 Fathers Advice, 14-1 others.

12.53 Novices' Chase (£7,080: 3m) (8)

1 1111U **RAPID FLIGHT** 25 J Moffatt 6-11-12 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
2 1224- **CRYSTAL GLORY** 222 N Richards 6-11-2 **Sean Quinlan**
3 0126- **DONNA'S DOUBLE** 229 A M Thomson 6-11-2 **R Mania**
4 4P310 **GIOVANNI CHANGE** F39 (P) M Walford 7-11-2 **J Hamilton**
5 -3122 **HILLVIEW** 35 G Hanmer 6-11-2 **S Bowen**
6 4P/P- **MOSSY FEN** 305 L Morgan 7-11-2 **B Hughes**
7 1- **MR VANGO** 270 M Bradstock 6-11-2 **C Hammond**
8 35356 **OISHIN** 12 (T,V) M Barnes 10-11-2 **S Mulqueen**

13-8 Crystal Glory, 4-1 Mossy Fen, 9-2 Hillview, 6-1 Rapid Flight, 8-1 Giovanni Change, 14-1 Donna's Double, Mr Vango, 100-1 Oishin.

1.23 NH Novices' Hurdle (Div I: £4,901: 2m) (10)

1 06-5 **COWBOY COOPER** 18 D Whillans 6-11-0 **Craig Nichol**
2 P3- **FIA FUINIDH** 255 M Todhunter 5-11-0 **Sean Quinlan**
3 456-0 **MONAGHAN BOY** 200 M Hammond 5-11-0 **B Hughes**
4 440-4 **RATHGEARAN** 34 C Grant 6-11-0 **C Bewley**
5 PP61- **SERIOUS MICKEY** 213 N Richards 6-11-0 **D McMenamin**
6 4/0-4 **TAKE CENTRE STAGE** 25 R Menzies 5-11-0 **N Moscrop**
7 3-100 **WHATABOUTYEH** 19 S England 5-11-0 **J England**
8 21-1 **YOU WEAR IT WELL** 28 (D) J Snowden 5-10-13 **G Sheehan**
9 0 **PEPPERMILL** 34 (T) M Barnes 5-10-7 **C O'Farrell**
10 6-21 **PERCULATOR** 17 M Walford 5-10-7 **J Hamilton**

5-4 You Wear It Well, 7-2 Perculator, 7-1 Serious Mickey, 10-1 Rathgearan, 12-1 Take Centre Stage, Monaghan Boy, 16-1 Fia Fuinidh, Cowboy Cooper.

1.53 NH Novices' Hurdle (Div II: £4,901: 2m) (10)

1 321- **BINGOO** 219 (D) J Moffatt 6-11-0 **Charlotte Jones (3)**
2 004-6 **COPPER BEACH** 19 Sue Smith 5-11-0 **T Willmott (3)**
3 6-35 **IHEARDUPAINTHOUSES** 32 Paula Smith 5-11-0 **Emma Smith-Chaston (5)**
4 513-2 **LEADING FORCE** 201 A M Thomson 5-11-0 **R Mania**
5 330-2 **MILLDAM** 21 (BF) J Snowden 4-11-0 **G Sheehan**
6 04-0 **OCH ONE MORE GIN** 189 D Bourke 5-11-0 **R Chapman**
7 0 **THIS IS BOB** 34 S Corbett 4-11-0 **Craig Nichol**
8 213- **TOP CLOUD** 233 C Grant 5-11-0 **Sean Quinlan**
9 63-20 **NOBLE AFFAIR** 19 Mrs J Walton 6-10-7 **C O'Farrell**
10 44- **RING PRETENDER** 250 W Coltherd 6-10-7 **S Coltherd**

2-1 Milldam, 3-1 Top Cloud, 7-2 Bingoo, 8-1 Leading Force, 10-1 Copper Beach, 12-1 Ring Pretender, 20-1 Noble Affair, Iheardupainthouses.

2.23 Handicap Chase (£6,263: 4m) (5)

1 -3212 **PRINCE DUNDEE** 45 (P,T,C) L Russell 9-12-0 **S Mulqueen**
2 12211 **DEE STAR** 27 (P,T) G Hanmer 9-11-12 **K Brogan**
3 32F13 **STORM LORENZO** 31 (P,C) R Menzies 7-11-9 **N Moscrop**
4 30241 **DIEGOS WAY** 22 (P) C Collins (Ire) 9-11-6 **S Ewing**
5 53-PU **EVENT OF SIVOLA** 12 (V) M Walford 8-10-13 **J Hamilton**

2-1 Diegos Way, 9-4 Prince Dundee, 7-2 Dee Star, 9-2 Storm Lorenzo, 14-1 Event Of Sivola.

2.53 Handicap Chase (£4,084: 2m) (10)

1 254-3 **TRESHNISH** 25 (P,CD) Sue Smith 9-12-0 **T Willmott (3)**
2 0-314 **FOLLOW YOUR ARROW** 150 (BF,C) G Bewley 6-12-0 **J Bewley (3)**
3 3F3-5 **COOLMOYNE** 14 (P) S Waugh 6-11-3 **J Hamilton**
4 -4623 **FOURTH OF JULY** 143 (T) R M Smith 7-11-0 **R Mania**
5 P0-22 **GRAYSTOWN** 39 (P,T,BF,CD) W Coltherd 10-10-11 **S Coltherd**
6 5260- **ABSOLUTELY DYLAN** 459 Sue Smith 9-10-11 **R Chapman**
7 5P2-P **BANDIT D'AINAY** 165 (P) M Hammond 11-10-10 **Emma Smith-Chaston (5)**
8 P3054 **DEERFOOT** 14 (T,V) M Barnes 6-10-2 **S Mulqueen**
9 020-6 **MUROOR** 200 (B) V Thompson 9-10-2 **T Dowson**
10 P0-P0 **KICKSAFTERSIX** 12 (H) M Todhunter 6-10-2 **Sean Quinlan**

7-2 Graystown, 4-1 Treshnish, Fourth Of July, 9-2 Follow Your Arrow, 8-1 Coolmoyne, 12-1 Kicksaftersix, Bandit D'Ainay, 16-1 Deerfoot.

3.23 Handicap Hurdle (£4,466: 2m) (7)

1 1-110 **FRINGILL DIKE** 27 (BF,CD) J O'Keeffe 5-12-0 **Sean Quinlan**
2 22-31 **PADDY THE HORSE** 39 (C) G Bewley 7-11-9 **J Bewley (3)**
3 31-41 **HALF SHOT** 42 I Jardine 8-11-9 **C O'Farrell**
4 26323 **BATTLE OF TORO** 56 (V) J Moffatt 6-11-9 **Charlotte Jones**
5 1531- **BONNE VITESSE** F168 (D) M Hammond 4-11-8 **Emma Smith-Chaston (5)**
6 433-5 **COMEDAYGODAY** 143 Lizzie Quinlan 5-11-7 **B Hughes**
7 025/ **BOLLIN NEIL** F32 (P) T Easterby 6-10-13 **J Hamilton**

11-4 Half Shot, 7-2 Paddy The Horse, 9-2 Fringill Dike, 5-1 Bonne Vitesse, 13-2 Battle Of Toro, 8-1 Bollin Neil, 12-1 Comedaygoday.

Kempton Park
Rob Wright

4.20 Bedazzling
4.50 Lord Paramount
5.20 Whispering Dream
5.55 Lunar Landscape
6.30 Tadshin
7.00 Nap Hand
7.30 Ranch Hand
8.00 Gold Medal (nb)
8.30 Pandemic Princess

Going: standard to slow — **Racing TV**
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

4.20 Nursery (2-Y-O: £2,916: 6f) (12)

1 (7) 22400 **SAUCISSON** 14 (H) E J-Houghton 9-9 **C Bishop**
2 (8) 060 **TWAYBLADE** 20 C Dwyer 9-9 **G Bass (3)**
3 (1) 0002 **SAJWAAN** 12 (P) A Watson 9-9 **L Morris**
4 (2) 464 **LADY AMANDA** 13 R Hannon 9-9 **J Crowley**
5 (3) 060 **TICKET TO ALASKA** 56 C Cox 9-8 **J Fahy**
6 (6) 33140 **MADE OF LIR** 13 (B,D) A Watson 9-7 **Rossa Ryan**
7 (9) 50521 **BEDAZZLING** 8 (D) G Boughey 9-7(6ex) **K Stott**
8 (12) 4000 **JUST DASHING** 109 (B) Miss A Murphy 9-4 **David Egan**
9 (4) 006 **MISS MOONSHINE** 147 B Millman 9-2 **O Searle (7)**
10 (10) 000 **SECRETARY** 41 H Spiller 9-1 **C Howarth (5)**
11 (5) 00604 **QUEEN OF ROMFORD** 23 (B) Alice Haynes 8-10 **T Hammer Hansen**
12 (11) 50060 **MADAM PICKLE** 8 (P) B Millman 8-8 **T Whelan**

Evens Bedazzling, 11-2 Sajwaan, 7-1 Lady Amanda, 12-1 Saucisson, Ticket To Alaska, Queen Of Romford, 14-1 Made Of Lir, 25-1 others.

4.50 Novice Stakes (£3,672: 6f) (7)

1 (7) 1 **BREWING** 22 W Haggas 3-9-11 **A Farragher (3)**
2 (6) 6-023 **FLYING SECRET** 188 (H) E J-Houghton 3-9-4 **C Bishop**
3 (2) 42 **LORD PARAMOUNT** 299 (BF) R Varian 3-9-4 **J Mitchell**
4 (5) 00 **PITTSBURG** 21 R Potter 6-9-4 **F Marsh**
5 (1) 00 **ROMANOVICH** 18 J G O'Shea 3-9-4 **T Heard (3)**
6 (4) 055 **A LADY FOREVER** 15 R Brisland 3-8-13 **A Rawlinson**
7 (3) **ANNIE GALE** J Fanshawe 3-8-13 **D Muscutt**

4-5 Brewing, 9-4 Lord Paramount, 5-1 Flying Secret, 10-1 Annie Gale, 100-1 Romanovich, A Lady Forever, Pittsburg.

5.20 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,672: 7f) (10)

1 (2) 04 **FOOLS AND HORSES** 18 C Cox 9-2 **Rossa Ryan**
2 (5) **LABIQA** C Hills 9-2 **J Crowley**
3 (1) **MARMARA STAR** G Boughey 9-2 **K Stott**
4 (6) **RESONANCE** M Botti 9-2 **L Morris**
5 (7) **SAM'S HOPE** R Hannon 9-2 **J Fahy**
6 (4) **SARATOGA SPIRIT** C Hills 9-2 **O Lewis (7)**
7 (3) **SO GLORIOUS** T Ward 9-2 **H Crouch**
8 (10) **STORMY SEA** Sir M Stoute 9-2 **C Fallon**
9 (8) 2 **WHISPERING DREAM** 28 C Appleby 9-2 **W Buick**
10 (9) **YASMINA** M Meade 9-2 **S Osborne (3)**

5-4 Whispering Dream, 6-1 Fools And Horses, 7-1 Stormy Sea, 8-1 Marmara Star, 10-1 Labiqa, 12-1 Yasmina, Sam's Hope, 14-1 Resonance.

5.55 Novice Stakes (Div I: 2-Y-O: £5,346: 1m) (14)

1 (12) 6 **ANOTHER DIMENSION** 28 R Spencer 9-7 **J Crowley**
2 (10) 02 **BAUHINIA RHAPSODY** 25 E Walker 9-7 **L Morris**
3 (6) 0 **EYETRAP** 19 J Chapple-Hyam 9-7 **David Egan**
4 (8) 43 **FEUD** 39 (BF) R Beckett 9-7 **D Tudhope**
5 (1) 5 **GOD OF FIRE** 62 S C Williams 9-7 **H Crouch**
6 (2) **I'M TOO TIRED** H & R Charlton 9-7 **T Whelan**
7 (13) **LASER GUIDED** S & E Crisford 9-7 **W Buick**
8 (9) 23 **LIKE A TIGER** 35 (BF) J Ferguson 9-7 **D Muscutt**
9 (7) 4 **LUNAR LANDSCAPE** 42 E J-Houghton 9-7 **C Bishop**
10 (11) **OPTIK** D M Simcock 9-7 **J P Spencer**
11 (14) **SMART CHARGER** A Carroll 9-7 **G Downing**
12 (3) 00 **TENACIOUSLY** 9 W Muir & C Grassick 9-7 **R Havlin**
13 (4) **UMBERTO** K P De Foy 9-7 **J Mitchell**
14 (5) 06 **UNCLE MATTHEW** 11 J & T Gosden 9-7 **James Doyle**

3-1 Like A Tiger, 7-2 Feud, 5-1 Bauhinia Rhapsody, 7-1 Laser Guided, 10-1 I'm Too Tired, 12-1 Another Dimension, Lunar Landscape, 14-1 Optik.

6.30 Novice Stakes (Div II: 2-Y-O: £5,346: 1m) (14)

1 (5) 0 **AMLETO** 16 W Haggas 9-7 **C Fallon**
2 (11) 0 **BODYGROOVE** 7 (H) R Spencer 9-7 **R Havlin**
3 (1) 0 **DAVIDEO** 26 R Beckett 9-7 **Rossa Ryan**
4 (13) 00 **GALLANT LION** 28 A Carroll 9-7 **G Downing**
5 (10) 0 **GASMAN** 60 (T) S Durack 9-7 **S Osborne (3)**
6 (3) **LOUGH LEANE** D M Simcock 9-7 **J P Spencer**
7 (6) **LUNATICK** H Morrison 9-7 **K Stott**
8 (9) **MANXMAN** S & E Crisford 9-7 **H Burns (3)**
9 (14) **MOSTABSHIR** J & T Gosden 9-7 **J Crowley**
10 (8) **PASSING TIME** A Balding 9-7 **H Turner**
11 (12) 00 **SEA SQUARED** 103 A King 9-7 **C Bishop**
12 (4) **TADSHIN** R Varian 9-7 **David Egan**
13 (7) 00 **TROOPER BISDEE** 21 Sir M Prescott 9-7 **L Morris**
14 (2) **WONDER LEGEND** J Ferguson 9-7 **D Muscutt**

9-4 Mostabshir, 9-2 Tadshin, 7-1 Manxman, 8-1 Lough Leane, 10-1 Passing Time, 12-1 Wonder Legend, Lunatick, 14-1 Davideo.

7.00 Nursery (2-Y-O: £5,616: 1m) (5)

1 (4) 2443 **MAXI KING** 15 D Loughnane 9-9 **K Stott**
2 (5) 42426 **PRINCE NABEEL** 39 J Ryan 9-9 **L Morris**
3 (2) 145 **NAP HAND** 101 (H) A King 9-9 **Rossa Ryan**
4 (3) 51304 **LUDO'S LANDING** 35 (V) C & M Johnston 9-9 **F Norton**
5 (1) 0651 **MONOPOLISE** 18 E Walker 9-4 **S Osborne (3)**

9-4 Monopolise, 5-2 Maxi King, 4-1 Ludo's Landing, 5-1 Nap Hand, 6-1 Prince Nabeel.

7.30 Handicap (£12,885: 2m) (8)

1 (6) 424-4 **RANCH HAND** 55 (D) A Balding 6-9-9 **W Carver (3)**
2 (1) -1006 **BANDINELLI** 144 (P,CD) C Appleby 4-9-3 **W Buick**
3 (4) 00415 **ISLAND BRAVE** 55 (D) H Main 8-9-3 **C Fallon**
4 (7) -6201 **PRINCE IMPERIAL** 21 (B,D) R Hughes 5-9-2 **David Egan**
5 (2) 65060 **WITHHOLD** 39 (P,D) H & R Charlton 9-9-2 **T Whelan**
6 (3) 31350 **IMPERIUM** 213 (W,P,CD) H & R Charlton 6-9-1 **James Doyle**
7 (8) 11420 **EVALUATION** 39 (T,D) K Dalgleish 4-8-13 **K Stott**
8 (5) 10505 **RAINBOW DREAMER** 62 (P,CD) A King 9-8-13 **Rossa Ryan**

9-4 Bandinelli, 9-2 Ranch Hand, Prince Imperial, 5-1 Evaluation, 10-1 Rainbow Dreamer, Island Brave, 12-1 Imperium, Withhold.

8.00 Handicap (£3,996: 7f) (14)

1 (13) 25306 **GOT NO DOLLARS** 20 (T,CD) S C Williams 4-9-8 **L Catton**
2 (8) 6336/ **WITH RESPECT** 726 (D) H Morrison 5-9-8 **R Havlin**
3 (5) 40602 **FOLLOW YOUR HEART** 9 (T,CD) M Loughnane 4-9-8 **L Morris**
4 (3) 45052 **SISTERS IN THE SKY** 23 (V,BF) R Teal 3-9-7 **J Mitchell**
5 (4) 60423 **GOLD MEDAL** 29 (P) R Hughes 3-9-7 **David Egan**
6 (12) 63443 **LA RAV** 21 (D) L Carter 8-9-6 **A Keeley (5)**
7 (7) 03000 **TASKHEER** 7 (B,T) D Steele 4-9-6 **R Clutterbuck**
8 (14) 53111 **BROXI** 34 (B,D) D Ivory 4-9-6 **N Currie**
9 (9) 60303 **FREE SOLO** 13 (P,T) J Osborne 5-9-6 **S Osborne (3)**
10 (6) -0024 **RING OF GOLD** 16 (CD) M & D Easterby 5-9-5 **J Crowley**
11 (1) 00440 **FULL INTENTION** 13 (P,CD) S Pearce 8-9-5 **J Haynes**
12 (11) 40044 **COME ON JOHN** 33 M Attwater 3-9-4 **W Carson**
13 (10) 00554 **BARNEYS GIFT** 23 (B,D) P Kirby 3-9-4 **K Stott**
14 (2) 533 **CHASING LOVE** 22 K P De Foy 3-9-4 **D Muscutt**

5-1 Broxi, 11-2 Gold Medal, 6-1 Follow Your Heart, 7-1 La Rav, 8-1 Free Solo, 10-1 Sisters In The Sky, Ring Of Gold, 12-1 Chasing Love, With Respect.

8.30 Handicap (£2,916: 6f) (12)

1 (1) 05603 **SENECA CHIEF** 21 (P,T) D & C Kubler 8-9-7 **J Mitchell**
2 (8) 0-020 **REVOLUTIONARY MAN** 25 (C) R Brisland 7-9-7 **C Bennett**
3 (2) 20202 **PANDEMIC PRINCESS** 11 (D) Alice Haynes 3-9-7 **T Hammer Hansen**
4 (12) 42500 **TRIGGERED** 43 (B,D) M Loughnane 6-9-7 **L Morris**
5 (6) 10465 **PHOENIX STAR** 12 (P,CD) Jessica Macey 6-9-7 **C Fallon**
6 (4) 52220 **BIG BARD** 34 (P,BF,D) G L Moore 4-9-7 **T P Queally**
7 (3) 04015 **HOLBACHE** 16 (CD) A Carroll 4-9-6 **J Fisher (5)**
8 (7) 03261 **COOLAGH MAGIC** 35 (CD) R Brisland 6-9-6 **W Carson**
9 (5) 03061 **THE PRINCES POET** 29 (CD) E J-Houghton 4-9-6 **C Bishop**
10 (9) 03300 **BOBBY ON THE BEAT** 20 (T,CD) P McEntee 4-9-5 **K Stott**
11 (10) 42424 **ISCHIA** 18 J Fanshawe 3-9-5 **D Muscutt**
12 (11) 03425 **STARTER FOR TEN** 35 (V,CD) I Furtado 5-9-4 **J Haynes**

3-1 Coolagh Magic, 11-2 Pandemic Princess, 6-1 The Princes Poet, 8-1 Ischia, Starter For Ten, 10-1 Phoenix Star, Big Bard, 14-1 others.

Southwell
Rob Wright

1.05 Mimoset
1.35 The Thin Blue Line
2.08 Lady Jane Grey
2.38 Silky Wilkie
3.08 Drill To Dream
3.38 Mzahem
4.08 Love Your Work
4.38 Ahlawi (nap)
5.10 Cheese The One

Going: standard — **Sky Sports Racing**
Draw: 5f-1m, low numbers best

1.05 Novice Stakes (£4,320: 5f) (9)

1 (9) 32 **BENEFICIARY** 285 K R Burke 3-9-7 **S James**
2 (3) **CAVALRYMAN** (H) A Brittain 3-9-7 **C Hardie**
3 (6) 3234 **EM JAY KAY** 212 P McEntee 3-9-7 **Grace McEntee (3)**
4 (8) 52 **HIT MAC** 13 G Boughey 3-9-7 **J Hart**
5 (1) 50356 **ENCHANTED NIGHT** 8 (P) C Dunnett 4-9-2 **K O'Neill**
6 (4) **I DIDN'T COST ALOT** R Potter 3-9-2 **Elisha Whittington**
7 (7) 46250 **KYBER CRYSTAL** 21 Alexandra Dunn 3-9-2 **T Fisher (7)**
8 (2) 23033 **MIMOSET** 13 (B) R Guest 3-9-2 **P J McDonald**
9 (5) 3-000 **TILSWORTH TAIBO** 52 J R Jenkins 5-9-2 **J Bradnam (7)**

7-4 Beneficiary, 7-2 Em Jay Kay, 4-1 Hit Mac, 6-1 Kyber Crystal, 7-1 Mimoset, 16-1 Cavalryman, 33-1 I Didn't Cost Alot, Enchanted Night, 66-1 Tilsworth Taibo.

1.35 Handicap (£7,560: 5f) (8)

1 (3) 61042 **LORD RIDDIFORD** 35 (D) J J Quinn 7-9-10 **J Hart**
2 (5) -2006 **BEDFORD FLYER** 57 (P,D) J L Eyre 4-9-8 **L Edmunds**
3 (1) 11000 **SPRING BLOOM** 27 (P,D) R Eddery 5-8-13 **D Keenan**
4 (8) 34315 **KHABIB** 5 (P,CD) R Craggs 4-8-10 **C Beasley**
5 (2) 15202 **LIPSINK** 27 (B,D) R Cowell 5-8-8 **P J McDonald**
6 (6) 04406 **THE THIN BLUE LINE** 32 (CD) K Dalgleish 4-8-5 **A Mullen**
7 (4) 02340 **MEDIA GUEST** 19 (T) G Margarson 4-8-4 **J F Egan**
8 (7) 00012 **CAPTAIN'S BAR** 140 (B) S Dixon 3-8-4 **Elisha Whittington**

3-1 Lord Riddiford, 7-2 Lipsink, 6-1 The Thin Blue Line, Khabib, 7-1 Captain's Bar, 8-1 Bedford Flyer, Media Guest, 14-1 Spring Bloom.

2.08 Nursery (2-Y-O: £4,536: 5f) (9)

1 (5) 52224 **RADIO GOO GOO** 30 P Evans 9-11 **R Coakley**
2 (6) 11210 **LUMACHO** 33 (CD) G Boughey 9-11 **J Hart**
3 (4) 00443 **GOLDEN BULLET** 15 A Watson 9-11 **T Fisher (7)**
4 (8) 21322 **GRACE ANGEL** 27 (B,T,D) Darryll Holland 9-10 **Jason Watson**
5 (9) 1305 **LADY JANE GREY** 27 (D) R Guest 9-10 **P J McDonald**
6 (7) 60120 **GIRLSWANNAHAVEFUN** 90 (D) P Evans 9-8 **D Keenan**
7 (2) 555 **DESERT FIGHTER** 20 P & O Cole 9-6 **M Tabti (7)**
8 (1) 0302 **FURNICOE** 8 M Appleby 8-11 **F Larson (3)**
9 (3) 02440 **HOW EXCITING** 26 Mrs A Duffield 8-5 **A Mullen**

4-1 Grace Angel, 9-2 Furnicoe, Lumacho, 5-1 Golden Bullet, 7-1 Radio Goo Goo, 8-1 Desert Fighter, 10-1 Lady Jane Grey, 14-1 Girlswannahavefun, 16-1 How Exciting.

2.38 Handicap (£10,308: 5f) (9)

1 (5) -0005 **CAME FROM THE DARK** 25 (D) E Walker 6-9-9 **R Coakley**
2 (2) 35210 **FINE WINE** 165 (B,CD) S Dixon 5-9-3 **K O'Neill**
3 (6) 01-50 **PAPA DON'T PREACH** 177 (H,D) K Frost 3-9-3 **J Hart**
4 (3) 53016 **NIGHT ON EARTH** 53 (D) I Williams 4-9-2 **P J McDonald**
5 (8) 04014 **ALLIGATOR ALLEY** 74 (T,BF,D) D O'Meara 5-9-1 **Jason Watson**
6 (1) 21465 **SILKY WILKIE** 73 (D) K R Burke 3-8-13 **S Feilden (7)**
7 (7) 55052 **DIGITAL** 62 (CD) R Fell 4-8-12 **T Eaves**
8 (9) 03506 **COUNT D'ORSAY** 21 (D) T Easterby 6-8-7 **C Hardie**
9 (4) 00236 **INTERVENTION** 7 (P,C) M Appleby 5-8-4 **T Ladd**

7-2 Alligator Alley, 4-1 Fine Wine, 5-1 Digital, 6-1 Silky Wilkie, 7-1 Came From The Dark, 8-1 Count D'Orsay, 10-1 Night On Earth, Intervention, 25-1 Papa Don't Preach.

3.08 Handicap (Div I: £3,726: 1m 4f) (14)

1 (10) 12-46 **ELEVEN ELEVEN** 286 Jessica Macey 4-10-0 **L Edmunds**
2 (13) 65010 **CENTRAL CITY** 25 (P,CD) G Kelleway 7-9-12 **Bradley Furniss (7)**
3 (6) 43500 **LAWMANS BLIS** 16 (D) Alex French 4-9-12 **D E Hogan**
4 (3) 54000 **BRISTOL HILL** 26 K Frost 4-9-11 **D Nolan**
5 (2) -0024 **WESTERN BEAT** 16 M & D Easterby 4-9-9 **Joanna Mason**
6 (9) 006 **WOTYA MACALLIT** 19 M Hammond 3-9-8 **G Lee**
7 (7) 00650 **HAKU** 18 M Loughnane 3-9-7 **S Cherchi**
8 (14) 36246 **DRILL TO DREAM** 65 P Charalambous & J Clutterbuck 3-9-6 **P Mulrennan**
9 (1) 24250 **CONTROL** 29 J Butler 3-9-5 **D Keenan**
10 (8) 00103 **SELECTO** 21 (D) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-9-4 **S Gray**
11 (11) 45254 **FOURSOME** 30 Olly Williams 3-9-2 **D Fentiman**
12 (5) /002- **KING ATHELSTAN** 592 (P,D) Sara Ender 7-8-13 **P Dennis**
13 (12) 63345 **HAMMY END** 20 (H,P,CD) W Muir & C Grassick 6-8-12 **P J McDonald**
14 (4) -6500 **BATEAU BAY** 29 P Kirby 3-8-10 **Madi Patzelt (7)**

9-2 Western Beat, 6-1 Foursome, 7-1 Control, 8-1 Hammy End, Selecto, 10-1 Eleven Eleven, Central City, 12-1 others.

3.38 Handicap (Div II: £3,726: 1m 4f) (14)

1 (7) 40403 **BAKERSBOY** 52 (B) P McEntee 4-10-0 **Josephine Gordon**
2 (3) 26400 **PRINCE ABU** 27 (C) D Shaw 5-9-13 **C Hardie**
3 (10) 20521 **RED DEREK** 26 L Williamson 6-9-12 **K O'Neill**
4 (11) 23214 **GHOSTLY** 149 (BF,D) Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-10 **F McManoman (3)**
5 (8) 13302 **LEDNIKOV** 51 (V,D) I Furtado 4-9-10 **J F Egan**
6 (13) 006 **HALF NELSON** 15 (T) G Harris 7-9-9 **D Costello**
7 (2) -5213 **HILDENLEY** 23 (T) T Easterby 5-9-8 **D Fentiman**
8 (14) 00366 **HOOVES LIKE JAGGER** 43 (H,D) A Carroll 4-9-7 **C Lee**
9 (4) 5000 **MZAHEM** 23 (P) Tom Clover 3-9-5 **S Cherchi**
10 (12) 14564 **MISS CLEMENTINE** 21 E Dunlop 3-9-4 **P J McDonald**
11 (5) 60400 **ISLA DIAMONDS** 22 M Sowersby 7-9-0 **P Dennis**
12 (6) 02332 **SICARIO** 9 (BF) M Appleby 7-9-0 **D Keenan**
13 (9) 31405 **AMOURIE** 36 (D) R Craggs 6-8-12 **C Beasley**
14 (1) 000 **PLANXTY** 226 J Gallagher 3-8-6 **A Mullen**

7-2 Red Derek, 4-1 Ghostly, 5-1 Sicario, 6-1 Hildenley, 10-1 Miss Clementine, Lednikov, Bakersboy, 14-1 Amourie, Hooves Like Jagger.

4.08 Handicap (£5,508: 1m) (14)

1 (8) 003-0 **DAAFR** 64 (V,CD) A Brittain 6-9-9 **C Hardie**
2 (9) 51100 **PLASTIC PADDY** 12 (D) M Appleby 4-9-9 **F Larson (3)**
3 (12) 45032 **BROKEN SPEAR** 11 (V,BF) T Coyle 6-9-8 **Billy Loughnane (7)**
4 (6) 01106 **GEORGE MORLAND** 5 (D) Miss A Murphy 4-9-7 **T Fisher (7)**
5 (11) 14002 **LOVE YOUR WORK** 33 (CD) R Menzies 6-9-7 **P Mathers**
6 (7) 13001 **ROUDEMENTAL** 12 (T,D) H Palmer 3-9-7 **A Mullen**
7 (3) 16454 **COSMOS RAJ** 12 (P,D) D O'Meara 4-9-7 **Jason Watson**
8 (10) 31053 **HIGHWAYGREY** 55 T Easterby 6-9-7 **D Fentiman**
9 (13) 30052 **DASHING DICK** 16 (P) W Stone 4-9-6 **Collen Storey**
10 (5) 4010- **MORE JOY** J159 (H) M Hammond 4-9-6 **A Brookes (5)**
11 (4) 13026 **LIGHT UP OUR STARS** 9 (H,D) S Dixon 6-9-5 **D Swift**
12 (2) 0410 **GOLDEN SHEEN** 16 (B,D) H & R Charlton 3-9-5 **C Lee**
13 (14) 12455 **DUNGAR GLORY** 37 (D) A Keatley 3-9-4 **J Hart**
14 (1) 26043 **MAYSONG** 7 (D) Alice Haynes 5-9-4 **Shariq Mohd (7)**

5-1 Roudemental, 11-2 Broken Spear, 6-1 Love Your Work, 7-1 Cosmos Raj, 10-1 Dashing Dick, Maysong, 12-1 others.

4.38 Handicap (£5,508: 7f) (14)

1 (3) 23515 **LARADO** 6 (B,D) M Appleby 4-9-12 **T Ladd**
2 (13) 6/61- **GLOBAL WALK** 386 (P) S bin Suroor 5-9-8 **K O'Neill**
3 (14) 15-00 **EAGLE CREEK** 15 (D) M & D Easterby 8-9-6 **Joanna Mason**
4 (2) 20033 **TOTHENINES** 29 K R Burke 3-9-6 **C Lee**
5 (1) 03560 **ROYAL MUSKETEER** 40 (D) Steph Hollinshead 4-9-5 **P J McDonald**
6 (8) 00604 **FIFTYSHADESOFRED** 11 (P,D) K Frost 4-9-5 **C Hardie**
7 (5) 2-062 **AHLAWI** 27 S Dixon 4-9-4 **D Swift**
8 (11) 46100 **BUCKSHAW VILLAGE** 30 (BF,D) R Fahey 3-9-3 **J Garritty**
9 (7) 40561 **DANCINGINTHEWOODS** 35 (B,D) Miss A Murphy 5-9-2 **F Larson (3)**
10 (12) 60121 **FINERY** 27 (H,CD) M Appleby 5-9-1 **Erika Parkinson (5)**
11 (6) 20445 **ANIF** 15 (D) M Herrington 8-8-13 **T Eaves**
12 (4) 0-414 **SYCAMORE** 282 (C) S Dixon 5-8-12 **P Dennis**
13 (10) 00022 **BARNEY'S BAY** 30 (B,C) T Easterby 4-8-12 **D Fentiman**
14 (9) 63400 **STRAITOUTTACOMPTON** 21 (C) M Chapman 6-8-7 **Josephine Gordon**

100-30 Global Walk, 11-2 Finery, 6-1 Dancinginthewoods, 7-1 Ahlawi, 10-1 Larado, Barney's Bay, Tothenines, 12-1 Buckshaw Village, Fiftyshadesofred.

5.10 Handicap (£3,726: 6f) (14)

1 (3) 0203U **STEEL DUCHESS** 13 (H,V) Darryll Holland 3-9-7 **P Mulrennan**
2 (6) 43110 **CHEESE THE ONE** 29 (P,BF,D) R Menzies 3-9-7 **P Mathers**
3 (4) 5-600 **SECRET TRYST** 20 (H) W Knight 3-9-7 **P J McDonald**
4 (14) 05-50 **BANPHRIONSANALUAS** 60 Alice Haynes 3-9-7 **K O'Neill**
5 (11) 61636 **EASTERN STAR** 13 (D) A Carroll 6-9-7 **Mollie Phillips (3)**
6 (13) 60060 **MERRY SECRET** 12 (B,T,D) L Mullaney 4-9-6 **J Hart**
7 (7) 00060 **EAST STREET REVUE** 44 (P,D) T Easterby 9-9-5 **D Fentiman**
8 (10) 004 **ICONICDAAY** 12 D O'Meara 3-9-5 **Jason Watson**
9 (1) 6300 **BLUEBIRD** 28 (V) J Fanshawe 3-9-5 **R Scott**
10 (9) 04062 **FINAL FRONTIER** 33 (H,D) R Carr 9-9-5 **T Eaves**
11 (8) 66306 **WAVERLEY STAR** 15 (B) A Brown 3-9-5 **Ryan Sexton (3)**
12 (5) 30000 **BRAZEN AKOYA** 15 (B) Phillip Makin 3-9-5 **D Costello**
13 (2) 20030 **HILARY'S BOY** 15 (T,D) J L Eyre 3-9-4 **L Edmunds**
14 (12) 41650 **TOMMYTWOHOOTS** 213 (D) S A Harris 4-9-4 **D Swift**

4-1 Final Frontier, 11-2 Cheese The One, 7-1 Steel Duchess, 8-1 Iconicdaay, 10-1 Hilary's Boy, Eastern Star, 12-1 Waverley Star, Bluebird, Merry Secret.

Yesterday's racing results

Fakenham
Going: good

12.20 (3m 38yd ch) 1, **Vetoncall** (Jamie Brace, 6-1); 2, Le Tueur (15-8). 6 ran. NR: Joey Steel. ¾l, A E Jones.

12.52 (2m 3yd hdle) 1, **Marshella** (Harrison Beswick, 11-4); 2, Citizen Jane (9-4); 3, Ygritte (15-8 fav). 4 ran. 1½l, 6½l. O Signy.

1.22 (2m 59yd ch) 1, **Sabbathical** (Adam Wedge, 2-1 fav); 2, Moore Clouds (7-1); 3, Uncle O (25-1). 7 ran. 1l, 9l. Evan Williams.

1.52 (2m 7f 95yd hdle) 1, **Secret Trix** (Fergus Gregory, 7-4 fav); 2, Doireann (3-1); 3, Scudamore (5-1). 7 ran. NR: Annie Day. ¾l, 23l. O Murphy.

2.22 (2m 3yd hdle) 1, **Mullenbeg** (M Bastyan, Evens fav); 2, Sorbet (12-1); 3, Hillfinch (10-1). 7 ran. NR: Emma Lamb. 1½l, 10l. M F Harris.

2.52 (2m 5f 44yd ch) 1, **Conceroe** (Jack Quinlan, 15-8 fav); 2, Prime Pretender (2-1); 3, Prince Cleni (100-30). 5 ran. NR: Maria Magdalena. 3l, 14l. B I Case.

3.22 (2m 3yd Flat) 1, **Shinji** (Aidan Coleman, 9-4); 2, Gaye Legacy (15-2); 3, Haafbourd (40-1). 5 ran. NR: Grangeclare North. 9l, 3¼l. R Varian.

Placepot: £35.40. Quadpot: £4.30.

Hereford
Going: good to soft (soft in places)

12.45 (2m 53yd hdle) 1, **Nemean Lion** (Richard Patrick, 14-1); 2, Light Em Up Nigel (6-4 fav); 3, Get Sky High (16-5). 14 ran. NR: Captain Attridge, Gyllen. 9½l, 3l. Kerry Lee.

1.15 (2m 5f 163yd hdle) 1, **Jet Of Magic** (H Cobden, Evens fav); 2, Bonza Boy (8-1); 3, Fountains Chief (7-2). 5 ran. 11l, 38l. P F Nicholls.

1.45 (3m 1f 44yd ch) 1, **Jet Plane** (Harry Skelton, 4-1); 2, Kyntara (2-1 fav); 3, Amenon (7-1). 9 ran. 24l, 7l. D Skelton.

2.15 (3m 1f 119yd hdle) 1, **Braganza Bay** (Richard Patrick, 9-4 fav); 2, Pottlerath (11-4); 3, The Bold Thady (50-1). 9 ran. 3¼L, 23l. H D Daly.

2.45 (2m 3f 147yd hdle) 1, **Vicki Vale** (Harry Skelton, 3-1); 2, Houi Cherie (25-1); 3, Blue Beach (11-4 jt-fav). 16 ran. 17l, 2l. D Skelton.

3.15 (2m 4f 194yd ch) 1, **Jobesgreen Lad** (J J Burke, 7-2); 2, Ballybeen (7-4 fav); 3, Just Go For It (6-1). 9 ran. 1¼L, 29l. T R George.

3.50 (2m 53yd Flat) 1, **Magic Seven** (Jonjo O'Neill Jr, 100-30); 2, Seaside Legend (5-2); 3, Hedera Park (18-1). 9 ran. 10l, 4¼L. Jonjo O'Neill.

Placepot: £9.00. Quadpot: £5.70.

Lingfield Park
Going: soft

12.30 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Authorised Speed** (J E Moore, 4-5 fav); 2, Broadway Boy (7-1); 3, Scene One (25-1). 12 ran. NR: Sandalwood. 15l, 7l. G L Moore.

1.00 (2m 4f ch) 1, **White Hart Lady** (Lorcan Murtagh, 4-1); 2, The Real Jet (28-1); 3, River Tyne (9-2). 8 ran. 18l, 30l. H Fry.

1.30 (2m hdle) 1, **Endless Escape** (Ben Jones, 12-1); 2, El Muchacho (11-1); 3, Godot (8-1). 12 ran. NR: Maclaine, Rhubarb Bikini. 7l, 1l. Ben Clarke.

2.00 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, **Optimise Prime** (Kielan Woods, 7-1); 2, Branson Missouri (15-8 fav); 3, Kenny George (16-1). 10 ran. 8l, 33l. B Pauling.

2.30 (2m 6f 10yd ch) 1, **Ramore Will** (Mr Fred Gordon, 16-1); 2, Waikiki Waves (11-1); 3, Enduring Love (12-1). 7 ran. NR: Kilfords Queen, Shirocco's Delight. 1¼l, 9l. C Gordon.

3.00 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, **Tallow For Coal** (G Sheehan, 7-2); 2, Pemberley (6-1); 3, Keep Rolling (11-1). 7 ran. NR: Carlow Farmer. 7½l, 8l. Jamie Snowden.

3.30 (2m 7f hdle) 1, **Last Quarter** (T Scudamore, 4-1); 2, Chloe's Court (16-1); 3, Drop Him In (28-1). 7 ran. NR: Good News, Republican. ½l, 16l. D Pipe.

Placepot: £3,086.50. Quadpot: £405.70.

Newcastle
Going: standard/slow

3.42 (1m 4f 98yd) 1, **King Of The South** (D Tudhope, 7-4); 2, Pirate King (22-1); 3, Sir Chauvelin (9-1). 6 ran. NR: Manu Et Corde. ¾l, sh hd. W J Knight.

4.12 (6f) 1, **Nine Tenths** (Cieren Fallon, 15-8 fav); 2, Cariad Angel (25-1); 3, Casamigos (14-1). 11 ran. 1¾l, 4¾l. W J Haggas.

4.45 (6f) 1, **Statu Of Liberty** (T Eaves, 3-1); 2, Our Delia (150-1); 3, Destined (2-1 fav). 11 ran. ½l, 1¾l. B J Meehan.

5.15 (6f) 1, **Havana By The Sea** (P Mulrennan, 5-1); 2, Cheeky Maxi (20-1); 3, Champagne Sarah (6-5 fav). 6 ran. NR: Deguello, Tillybob. 5l, ¾l. Craig Lidster.

5.45 (5f) 1, **Silent Words** (D Tudhope, 7-2); 2, Colnago (11-4); 3, De Bruyne (12-1). 14 ran. Hd, 1¼l. K A Ryan.

6.15 (5f) 1, **Pockley** (Mark Winn, 100-30 fav); 2, Glorious Rio (4-1); 3, Carlton And Co (4-1). 11 ran. 1¼l, ½l. Miss L A Perratt.

6.45 (7f 14yd) 1, **Emily Post** (P J McDonald, 11-1); 2, Al Baahy (12-1); 3, Bin Hayyan (25-1). 13 ran. NR: Eldelbar. Nk, nk. E Bethell.

7.15 (1m 5yd) 1, **Whatwouldyouknow** (F McManoman, 9-1); 2, Reclaim Victory (15-2); 3, Going Underground (5-4 fav). 14 ran. 1¼l, nk. N Tinkler.

7.45 (6f) 1, **Athollblair Boy** (Miss Emma Dwan, 10-1); 2, Macho Pride (10-1); 3, Bellagio Man (9-2). 14 ran. Sh hd, ns. N Tinkler.

Jackpot: £6,250.00.
Placepot: £201.50. Quadpot: £39.90.

‘Tough times make me realise I’m

Manu Tuilagi’s many injuries have given him perspective as he nears his 50th England cap, he tells **Alex Lowe**

Manu Tuilagi’s preparations to play New Zealand began before most of the England squad had returned to camp after their victory over Japan. Tuilagi decided not to head home to Manchester for 24 hours and was joined by his family at the team hotel, where the RFU had set up a children’s soft play area in the indoor training centre. “If you want to practise chaos, that’s the place,” Tuilagi says, laughing.

The Sale Sharks centre is in a relaxed mood — when is he not? — as the rest of the England squad begin to arrive at the start of a big week. Tuilagi sits down at a large dining table and presses “play” on the laptop in front of him. He has seen the freeze-frame and already knows what the video is: the highlights of England’s 38-21 victory against New Zealand at Twickenham in 2012.

When Tuilagi takes the field against the All Blacks on Saturday, it will be two weeks shy of a decade since that thunderous performance. Playing on instinct and pure joy, Tuilagi created tries for Brad Barritt and Chris Ashton — the latter after powering through three defenders — before scoring one himself. Tuilagi smiled through the haka and immediately set the tone as England overturned the odds, inflicting some crunching tackles and shuddering carries on the All Blacks. He was 21 and loving life.

“I love seeing it,” he says, chuckling as he watches the offload that releases Barritt for his try. “I remember it like it was yesterday. I remember the haka. Standing in front of it to witness the history of that country being displayed is amazing.

“It was one of the best games I have been involved in. No one gave us a chance. We talked about taking the game to them and we did that. That week we just talked about belief and I think that word is massive. You’ve got to have the mindset of going in there and imposing your game on them, not the other way around. You’ve got to do that from the kick-off.”

England did that in 2012 and again in 2018, opening up a 15-0 lead before the All Blacks crept back into the game and edged it 16-15, after Sam Underhill had a try chalked off for the narrowest of offside calls. A year later, England kept the hammer down and secured another famous win over the All Blacks, this time in the World Cup semi-final.

There was an absolute conviction within the team that week that England were going to win; it was evident from their body language, from the power of their words and it was written across Owen Farrell’s face during the haka.

England switched up their kick-off with George Ford flipping the ball to Farrell, who landed it on a dime and 98 seconds later Tuilagi had scored. It was a blistering start and England barely relented. “Only you know how genuine the conviction is and you’ve got to have that,” Tuilagi says, a message he plans to share this week.

Freddie Steward and Jack van Poortvliet were just 11 when Tuilagi and England won that game in 2012 and still only academy prospects in 2019. Now they are key to how the present vintage want to play. Although not in England’s official leadership group, Tuilagi will talk to them this week about generating the right mindset.

England v New Zealand
Twickenham Saturday, 5.30pm TV: Amazon Prime Radio: TalkSPORT

“I don’t think that there are many things in life where you have to take on the physical and the mental at the same time but in sport you have the opportunity to do that,” he says.

“I say that to the boys: ‘You’re here for a reason. You’re here because you are the best players in the country, not by accident or coincidence. You are here because you’ve worked hard for it and because you were meant to be here. From the day you were born, think of the path you took, each and every one of us is different. How we made it here, everyone has got different stories.

“You’ve made it here through all that, every one of us. You are meant to be here.”

Tuilagi’s story: a year before his England debut he was threatened with deportation after it emerged he had arrived in 2004 to join his family in Leicester on a tourist visa. The RFU, Leicester Tigers and the local MP campaigned successfully for him to stay.

After exploding on to the scene, Tuilagi endured almost five years of injury hell; a period that would have broken a lesser man. It was physically painful and, to borrow a phrase from Matt O’Connor, the former director of rugby at Leicester, a form of “mental torture” for Tuilagi.

When he returned properly to the England fold in 2019, he was no longer the larrikin and carefree player; he found he appreciated so much more the opportunity of being part of the England squad. Now he is 31 and still loving life.

“My enjoyment of the game has not changed. I look back to 2012 and it was different players back then. I was so young. I played a little bit more off the instinct which is natural as a young lad,” he says.

“Now I understand the game a lot more. I understand the need to execute the game plan and I have a role to play in that. It is exciting.

“I love that I get the opportunity to be here and you can’t take that for granted. [That perspective] definitely came through the tough times. It’s a big lesson in life, not just rugby. That is why I think I am so fortunate to still be playing here.

“I am always optimistic about things and about people. I try to make them realise how amazing an opportunity it is to be selected in this circle. You have got to be conscious of that and take confidence from that. I enjoy it more knowing that.”

Tuilagi was restricted to a cameo off the bench against Japan as England and Sale try to manage him through to the World Cup; a tournament he doubted he would make when speaking in 2019.

Next week, against South Africa, he could win his 50th cap. Owen Farrell, who made his debut a year later than Tuilagi, will hit 100 on Saturday. Does Tuilagi ever think how many he could have amassed?

“I don’t want that,” he says, his demeanour turning a little more serious, as if reflecting privately for a moment on his story, on how much joy and pain and heartache and hope will have gone into those 50 caps. “If I am fortunate and that day comes, it will mean a lot.”





2022 England 52 Japan 13

Tuilagi and Farrell going for treble

England 38 New Zealand 21 (Twickenham, Dec 1, 2012)
1 Corbisiero, 2 T Youngs, 3 Cole, 4 Launchbury, 5 Parling, 6 Wood, 8 Morgan, 7 Robshaw, 9 B Youngs, 10 Farrell, 12 Barritt, 13 Tuilagi, 11 Brown, 15 Goode, 14 Ashton

England 19 New Zealand 7 (Yokohama, Oct 26, 2019)
1 M Vunipola, 2 George, 3 Sinckler, 4 Itoje, 5 Lawes, 6 Curry, 8 B Vunipola, 7 Underhill, 9 B Youngs, 10 Ford, 12 Farrell, 13 Tuilagi, 11 May, 15 Daly, 14 Watson

England v New Zealand (Twickenham, Saturday) Possible team
1 Genge, 2 Cowan-Dickie, 3 Sinckler, 4 Ribbans, 5 Hill, 6 Itoje, 8 B Vunipola, 7 Curry, 9 Van Poortvliet, 10 Smith, 12 Farrell, 13 Tuilagi, 11 May, 15 Steward, 14 Nowell

Other meetings since 2012
2018 England 15 New Zealand 16. **2014** New Zealand 20 England 15, New Zealand 28 England 27, New Zealand 36 England 13, England 21 New Zealand 24. **2013** England 22 New Zealand 30

One match · Two matches · Three matches

Seibold: Curry would be an outstanding league player

Alex Lowe Rugby Correspondent

If Anthony Seibold could sign one England rugby union player for Manly Sea Eagles, the NRL club he will join as head coach next month, the Australian would recruit Tom Curry.

Owen Farrell, the England captain who will win his 100th cap against New Zealand on Saturday, would also be on Seibold’s dream shopping list — but as a loose forward, not a stand-off.

Seibold was asked to play a bit of fantasy rugby league after revealing his decision to stand down as England’s defence coach ten months before the World Cup was triggered by Manly asking him to take charge a year earlier than planned. “I’ve always said Tom Curry would be an outstanding rugby league player,” Seibold said of the Sale Sharks flanker. “He’s one of the world’s best rugby players in either code, full stop. I have great admiration for his toughness, his work ethic, his skill level. I’m looking forward to Tom showing that against the All Blacks on Saturday.”

Seibold sees the same qualities in Farrell. “Owen Farrell grew up playing rugby league. His dad [Andy] was one of the best English players of all time. He comes from a great pedigree, his uncle, Sean O’Loughlin, was England captain.

“Owen has asked me before what position I think he’d play in rugby league and I said No 13 [loose forward]. He’s got that toughness with regards to his defence. If you’re going to come into Owen’s space, expect to get hit. He’s got great intent and he’s a really good ball player, that’s one of the things he’s shown [in union], whether at No 10 or No 12, he’s got great pass selection.”

Last month, Sam Tomkins, the England captain, said Farrell would have been the best English rugby league player for the past ten years had he chosen to follow his father into the 13-man code. “For Sam Tomkins to say that about Owen is a big comment,” Seibold, 48, said. “He brings great leadership qualities, he’s a competitor, he’s tough.”

With Eddie Jones and his coaching team signed up until next year’s World Cup, Seibold had agreed to take charge of Manly from 2024, but the situation changed in October after the club missed the play-offs and sacked Des Hasler, the head coach.

“Going to the World Cup was always the plan,” Seibold said. “I had to make a really difficult decision whether to join Manly now on a three-year deal or stay for 12 months with England and potentially be looking for work after that.

“I made the decision on opportunity and family, but it was a really difficult decision. There is a lot of regret because we’ve invested a lot of time into this project. It’s been a wonderful experience working for Eddie. He is an elite coach, a master coach.”

Cokanasiga injury blow

Joe Cokanasiga has been ruled out of England’s match against New Zealand at Twickenham on Saturday but Jack Nowell and Tommy Freeman are both available.

Cokanasiga, the Bath wing, sustained an ankle injury in England’s win over Japan. Nowell missed that game with an abdominal injury.

The other key change is in the front row, with Will Stuart, the Bath tight-head prop, getting the nod ahead of Joe Heyes.

so lucky to be here'

BEN STANSALL /GETTY IMAGES



Tuilagi's sparkling performance against New Zealand in 2012, above, remains a high point of an international career that has been punctuated by injuries, but he is still in the England fold and won his 48th cap against Japan last weekend, inset

Raynal will not tolerate go-slow tactics

Alex Lowe

England have been warned that time-wasting will not be tolerated in Saturday's Test against New Zealand after Mathieu Raynal was appointed as referee for the Twickenham showdown in a late change.

Australia were denied a victory over New Zealand in the Rugby Championship after Raynal penalised Bernard Foley for taking too long over a late penalty kick to touch. The All Blacks subsequently scored the winning try.

Raynal has stood by his decision and Anthony Seibold, the England defence coach, said the incident was a warning for all players. Owen Farrell routinely takes longer than his permitted time for his kicks at goal — and England's canny go-slow tactics against Japan last Saturday ran down the clock while Jonny May was in the sin-bin for ten minutes.

When May returned, he had missed just four minutes and 33 seconds of match play. That dead time included Farrell being permitted to take almost two minutes over a conversion.

"That situation in Australia versus New Zealand is a lesson to players. Referees want continuity. Rugby is a contest-versus-continuity game. In each ruck, there's a contest. When the ball's in the air, there's a contest. In between, supporters and referees want continuity and I get the lesson that was learnt out of that," Seibold said. "We train with great intensity and not much coach-talk in between the drills so we want continuity and also to be brutal with the contests in the game. It's a good lesson for the players that if you deliberately stop the game, there are consequences."

Raynal replaces Nic Berry after he returned to Australia for family reasons.



England defence coach Seibold has warned the players over time-wasting

Gatland: Erasmus should be reined in

CONTINUED FROM BACK

World Rugby, the governing body, to take action against Erasmus again and to protect their referees.

Gatland was the Lions' head coach in South Africa last year, when Erasmus released an hour-long video criticising the decision-making of Nic Berry, the Australian referee. Writing in a column for the Daily Telegraph, Gatland said: "I can't particularly see a defence there for what he's doing. I don't think it's a great look for the game. We should adhere to the process. The last thing we need is coaches taking this into the media and making comments about the game.

"I really felt for Nic Berry on the British & Irish Lions tour last year after the video Erasmus put out. The first response was really a defence from the Australian Rugby Union before World Rugby, and it even took about four days for the ARU to say something about it."

Erasmus was subsequently found guilty on six charges of misconduct by a World Rugby disciplinary committee and Gatland feels that the South African Rugby Union (SARU) should now be reining in their director of rugby. "You would like to think that someone will pull Erasmus aside," he said. "Whether it's someone from the South African Rugby Union or their CEO or there's a phone call, to tell Rassie, 'I don't think you're doing yourself or World Rugby any favours.'"

The clips released by Erasmus included one of Thomas Ramos, the France full back, handing off Cheslin Kolbe with a forearm to his face, and of Willie le Roux being penalised for a forward pass, accompanied by the caption: "I know guys and accept it, we only have ourselves to blame as the French were awsome [sic] both on the field (players) and off the field (supporters)!! We just have to fix these fundamental errors like tackle technique and simple passing. Sorry SA we know."

This week, Kolbe's wife, Layla, appeared to insinuate that match officials had been bribed in a post on Instagram that was later deleted. The post showed Ramos's incident with Kolbe, alongside a roll of cash emoji and the caption: "Yip. Well done France."

Speaking yesterday in Genoa, where South Africa will face Italy on Saturday, before travelling to meet England at Twickenham a week later, Erasmus offered his own explanation of his posts. "When I tweet, I don't do it for people who don't want to follow me," he said. "I am trying to inform the SA fans about things that happen on the field that we have to work hard on. Everybody takes it to the referees, and I did not once mention a referee."

He claimed also that he was not directly criticising Barnes. "It is not having a go at the referee, he is the No 1 referee in the world and he has more than 100 Test matches," Erasmus said. "It is obviously something on our side that we have to fix. I think SA supporters would like to understand that."

The sanctions handed down to Erasmus after his tirade against Berry included a warning about his future conduct and a similar warning to the SARU.



Gatland has tried to defend his latest outburst

Macleod finally set to make debut after injury obstacles

Steve James

The Scarlets back-row forward Josh Macleod is due make his long-awaited Wales debut against Georgia in Cardiff on Saturday.

Macleod, 26, has twice been set for his Wales bow, only to denied by injury. In 2020 he was selected in the squad for the autumn internationals but pulled a hamstring days before the players met up, and then in the 2021 Six Nations he was selected to play against Scotland but ruptured his achilles tendon at training an hour later.

Macleod replaces Taulupe Faletau at No 8 in one of six changes from the side that beat Argentina 20-13, as Wayne Pivac experiments while also keeping an eye on the final autumn international against Australia a week on Saturday, for which his England-based players such Nick Tompkins and Christ Tshiunza will be unavailable because the match falls outside World Rugby's international window. Those two miss out against Georgia.

Macleod is joined in the back row by the captain, Justin Tipuric, and Jac Morgan, who played so well at blind-side flanker against Argentina after replacing Dan Lydiate early on. Morgan, 22, was left out of the summer tour to South Africa and told to bulk up. He has done that.

Elsewhere there is a return on the wing for Josh Adams after a hand injury (Louis Rees-Zammit continues at full back even though he will be unavailable against Australia), while Owen Watkin replaces Tompkins at centre.

Rhys Priestland is given the fly-half jersey instead of Gareth Anscombe, and at lock Ben Carter starts in place of Will Rowlands who, like Lydiate, is sidelined for the remaining autumn matches. Both have "reasonably serious" injuries (shoulder and forearm respectively), according to Pivac, and could miss the start of the Six Nations.

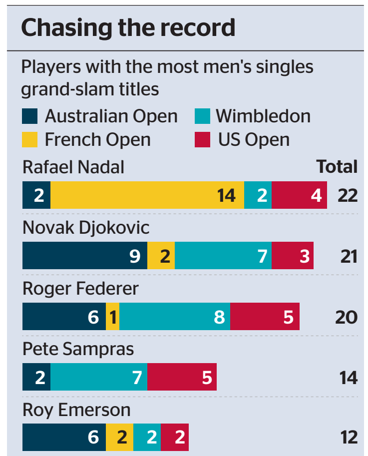
There is no place again in the squad for the veteran lock Alun Wyn Jones, although Pivac, the head coach, said he would be in the 23 for Australia, but Leigh Halfpenny is on the bench after a hamstring injury. Dafydd Jenkins, who captained Exeter Chiefs last weekend, is likely to make his debut from the bench, having been called up to the squad only this week (he too cannot play against Australia), as will the Scarlets scrum half, Dane Blacker.

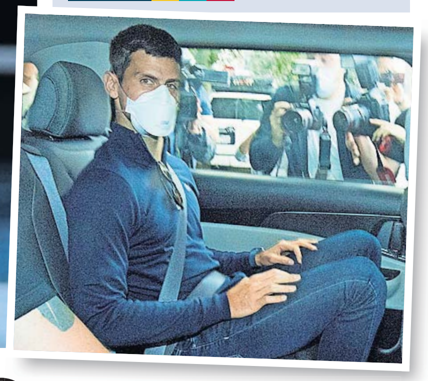
The Wales squad formed a guard of honour to applaud their World Cup-bound football counterparts as they left the hotel the two squads share in the Vale of Glamorgan. "A lot of our players know a lot of the football boys," Pivac said. "They are going to represent their country well."

Wales team L Rees-Zammit; A Cuthbert, G North, O Watkin, J Adams; R Priestland, T Williams; G Thomas, K Owens , D Lewis, B Carter, A Beard, J Morgan, J Tipuric, J Macleod. **Replacements** B Roberts, R Jones, S Wainwright, D Jenkins, T Faletau, D Blacker, S Costelow, L Halfpenny.
Wales v Georgia, Sat 1pm, TV: Amazon Prime


ANDY CHEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Djokovic won a ninth Australian Open in 2021 and, below, he heads for court before being deported on the eve of this year's event





Djokovic cleared for Australian Open return

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

Novak Djokovic will be able to compete at January's Australian Open after his three-year visa ban was overturned by the country's government.

Despite remaining unvaccinated against Covid-19, the 21-times grand-slam champion from Serbia has been permitted to enter Australia for a return to grand-slam action in January. This follows several months of negotiations between his lawyers and the Australian authorities.

Djokovic, 35, was deported on the eve of this year's tournament after the government cancelled his visa on "health and good order" grounds, amid concerns over his ability to incite "antivax sentiment". This automatically came with an entry ban until 2025, although there were certain "compelling circumstances" in which this could be waived.

Details of the reasoning behind the Australian government's decision have not yet been revealed, but it is believed that the change of federal leadership this year played a significant part. Anthony Albanese, who replaced Scott Morrison as prime minister in May after the Labor Party defeated the incumbent Liberal-National Coalition government in the federal election, is a tennis fan and was more sympathetic to Djokovic's case than his predecessor.

There is also no longer any requirement for overseas residents to be vaccinated before entering Australia. Until July, all declarations before travel required evidence that an individual had received at least two jabs against Covid-19. News of the decision was leaked to the Australian media yesterday. Only hours before, Djokovic had said that there was still no outcome.

"Nothing official yet," Djokovic told reporters after winning his opening match at the ATP Finals in Turin. "We are waiting. They [his lawyers] are communicating with the government of Australia. That's all I can tell you."

The Australian Open tournament director, Craig Tiley, had also claimed that he was unaware yesterday morning, telling the Australian Associated Press that he was not involved in the decision-making process.

"I don't think there should be any preferential treatment for anyone," Tiley said. "That's entirely up to the Australian government. I know Novak wants to come and play and to get back to competing. He loves Australia and it's where he's had the best success, but the timing [of an announcement] is up to somebody else and we'll just play that one by ear."

Djokovic's refusal to be vaccinated also meant he missed this year's US Open and an additional four Masters tournaments in America. After being ranked No1 in the world at the start of this season, he now sits at No8 after being denied the opportunity to earn up to 8,000 ranking points.

He also missed out on 2,000 points for winning Wimbledon after the ATP's decision to remove ranking points from the Championships because of the ban on players from Russia and Belarus. Some had wondered whether Djokovic, a nine-times champion at Melbourne Park, would be interested in returning to Australia after his experience this year. Despite being granted a medical exemption to enter the country on the basis of a positive Covid-19 test in the previous six months, Djokovic was stopped at the border and detained in a refugee hotel for several nights. He was eventually deported after a ten-day legal saga involving two separate court hearings.

"It's funny, I've spoken to Novak a few times," Tiley said yesterday. "We caught up and spent some time together in London and he's fine. Our relationship is fine. He played the Laver Cup [in September] and it was really nice to be able to spend some private time with him. He understands the circumstances and everything, but he's got to work it out with the federal government."

Tiley added: "The conditions have changed significantly from where they were a year ago and I'd like to have Novak here. I want to have all the best players in the world here."

Nadal suffers worst slump in 13 years

Stuart Fraser Tennis Correspondent

A season that started with two grand-slam titles is coming to a tame end for Rafael Nadal, whose run of four consecutive losses is his worst period of form on the tour since 2009.

The 36-year-old is unable to qualify for the last four of the ATP Finals after a second defeat in the group stage yesterday — 6-3, 6-4 by Felix Auger-Aliassime. The season-ending championships remains the biggest title missing from his CV after going no further than a runner-up finish in 2010 and 2013.

Nadal had surprised even himself by winning the Australian Open and French Open to hold the record of 22 grand-slam men's singles titles, but he has not looked comfortable since his withdrawal from the Wimbledon semi-finals with an abdominal injury. His most recent win came on September 3, in the third round of the US Open.

Having also recently experienced a life-changing moment, with the arrival of his first son, it is perhaps understandable that he has looked off the pace in Turin this week. "It has been six tough months," Nadal said. "The only thing I can do is to keep working and do the things that I need to do to start with real chances in 2023. I don't know if I'm going to reach that level again. But I don't have any doubt that I am going to die for it."

Nadal went up against his uncle Toni, who now coaches Auger-Aliassime. The Spaniard failed to convert five break points and struggled to contend with the serve of the 22-year-old Canadian, who produced 15 aces.

One group match, against Casper Ruud tomorrow, remains before Nadal starts plotting the defence of his Australian Open title in January. "What can happen in Australia? I don't know," he said. "What I have to do is come back, work hard, stay positive, accept the challenge, accept that I am going to need to suffer a little bit more."

Nadal's exit means his Spanish compatriot, Carlos Alcaraz, is guaranteed to become the youngest year-end ATP world No1. The 19-year-old, who won his first grand-slam title at the US Open in September, is absent in Turin this week because of an abdominal tear.

Norman needs to go, says McIlroy

Golf
Rick Broadbent

Rory McIlroy says Greg Norman needs to quit his role with Saudi's breakaway league if golf's warring factions are to build bridges.

McIlroy has been embroiled in a long-running spat with the LIV Golf commissioner. The 33-year-old said he feared for the future of golf, and one of the fundamental things needed to bring players together was the removal of Norman, 67.

Speaking before the DP World Tour Championship in Dubai, which starts tomorrow, McIlroy said: "Greg needs to go. I think he just needs to exit stage left. Now is the right time to sort of say, 'Look, you've got this thing off the ground, but no one is going to talk unless there's an adult in the room who can actually try to mend fences.'"

Norman, a two-times Open champion, has adopted a confrontational approach from the start of the divisive LIV project, which is backed by $2 billion (about £1.7 billion) from the Saudi sovereign wealth fund.

DP World Tour Championship
Starts tomorrow from 7am
TV: Sky Sports Main Event

The Australian has accused Jay Monahan, the PGA Tour commissioner, of threatening players, and branded Keith Pelley, the DP World Tour chief executive, a hypocrite.

In his most recent salvo he claimed that McIlroy and Tiger Woods should thank LIV Golf for fuelling better prize funds on their own tours. The feud prompted McIlroy to say that he had gained an extra "sense of pride" when he passed Norman's tally of PGA Tour wins in June.

Rumours that Norman may be moved sideways have been circulating for months. His car-crash press conference, when he referenced the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi in a Saudi consulate and said, "We all make mistakes," set the tone for the first few LIV events.

However, LIV Golf has made undeniable progress and now that it has recruited some top players and established a foothold, pending two legal cases against the main tours, it is believed it may seek a softer stance before the launch of a full-blown league next year.

LIV bosses have denied Norman will be moved, though. Last week Majed Al Sorour, its managing director, said that was "patently false". McIlroy says the two lawsuits need to be resolved and Norman removed before progress can be made.


McIlroy says that he fears for the future of the game

"If those two things happen, then things can happen," he said. "Right now it's a stalemate. The best thing in golf is to have all the best players playing together ... and that's not happening. So I fear for the game when that's going on."

LIV players are, at present, able to play on the DP World Tour (formerly European Tour), pending the case that will be heard in February. The case against the PGA Tour in America is not due until 2024. The US situation has become mired in legal mud-slinging, with a PGA Tour countersuit and a US Justice Department antitrust investigation into the Tour. In addition, the LIV player Patrick Reed is seeking $1 billion in defamation damages against a string of broadcasters and journalists. Messy is the word.

"If all that stuff can be sorted out one way or the other, then you can get to the stage where ... people can have dialogue and come to some sort of common ground or compromise," McIlroy, the four-times major champion, added. "But while all this is happening, it's very hard."

McIlroy also addressed Norman's suggestion that he and Woods should be grateful for what LIV has done. "I think everyone else in the game should be thankful [to Woods]," he said.

The Northern Irishman leads the Race to Dubai rankings before this week's finale, but only a win will guarantee he stays there. Ryan Fox, Matt Fitzpatrick, Tommy Fleetwood, Viktor Hovland and Shane Lowry can all finish on top of the rankings if they win, depending on other players' results.

LIV Golf declined to comment on McIlroy's remarks.

‘Ronaldo must not play for us again’

Charlotte Duncker, Paul Hirst

Erik ten Hag does not want Cristiano Ronaldo to play for Manchester United again with club chiefs agreeing that the team are better without him.

The club are waiting until they have seen the whole of the player’s interview with Piers Morgan On TalkTV before deciding what action to take against Ronaldo and are in talks with legal representatives over his comments.

The interview, which was done without permission from the club, will be aired in full on Wednesday and Thursday. In it Ronaldo said he felt “betrayed” by the club and was being forced out, while he also attacked the Glazers, the club’s owners, and revealed a lack of respect for manager Ten Hag.

Ten Hag, who is working this week before taking a break during the World Cup, has been in talks with the football director, John Murtough, the co-chairman Joel Glazer and the chief executive Richard Arnold. It is understood that the manager does not want to sacrifice the unity of the team for the sake of Ronaldo. The Dutchman had been vocal in his support of Ronaldo, insisting both publicly and privately that the Portugal forward had a role to play in his squad.

However, club chiefs agree the team have performed much better without him, and Ronaldo, 37, who has won the Ballon d’Or five times, has not been accepting of the role of substitute and squad player.

Ten Hag has already had to discipline Ronaldo twice this season after he left Old Trafford on a match day without permission. The first occasion was against Rayo Vallecano in a pre-season friendly, when he was one of a number of players who left the ground before the fixture had finished, and he was then dropped from the squad after refusing to come on as a substitute and leaving before the final whistle of the 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur.



Ronaldo appeared to receive a frosty reception from Fernandes

The sanctions were Ten Hag’s decision but he had the backing of the senior staff at the club and it is understood that will be the same when a final decision is made on how to proceed.

The club had planned to have talks with Ronaldo in January if there were still issues around his place in the squad, but the interview has brought that to a head quicker than anticipated.

Ronaldo wanted to leave the club in the summer and his agent, Jorge Mendes, was working to get his client a deal away from Old Trafford. There was interest from a number of clubs including Chelsea, Napoli and Paris Saint-Germain but it is understood the only team to come in with a contract offer were in Saudi Arabia and Ronaldo’s preference was to play for a Champions League side.

It is understood Ronaldo does not have a club lined up to join in January and that the aim of the interview was to put himself in the shop window off the back of a good World Cup.

His interview is said to have had a mixed reaction in the dressing room. An awkward handshake between Ronaldo and his United and Portugal teammate, Bruno Fernandes, was caught on camera on Monday, but the incident was played down by the Portugal midfielder João Mário, who said: “It was a joke between them because Bruno was late, one of the last to arrive, and Cristiano asked him if he had come by boat.”

Ian Wright, meanwhile, believes Ronaldo’s comments show he is not accepting that his career is nearing an end. “It must be difficult for him and something he may need to seek counselling for,” the former Arsenal striker said.

Tearful star recalls tragedy

Cristiano Ronaldo has opened up about the heartbreak of losing his newborn baby in April while their other twin, Bella, survived.

In the latest clip released from his TalkTV interview with Piers Morgan, the Manchester United forward is seen breaking down in tears as he recalls the traumatic period where he and his partner, Georgina Rodriguez, had to tell their other four children that only one of the twins had survived childbirth.

“Probably the worst moment that I’ve had in my life since my father died,” Ronaldo said. “We didn’t understand why it happened to us.

“Gio arrived home and the kids start to say, ‘Where’s the other baby? After one week I say, let’s be up front and let’s be honest with the kids. Let’s say that Ángel, which is his name, has gone to heaven.”

NAOMI BAKER/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES





Daly scores for England but Norway grabbed a late equaliser after a misjudgment by Roebuck, inset

Wiegman’s England end year unbeaten

Sarina Wiegman completed an unbeaten calendar year as England manager with a 1-1 draw against Norway in Murcia last night (Molly Hudson writes).

Frida Maanum scored ten minutes from time to earn the Norwegians — managed by the former England interim boss Hege Riise — a draw, despite the fact they had been reduced to ten players after Anja Sonstevold was sent off for two bookable offences. Rachel Daly had put the Lionesses ahead in the first half.

Wiegman admitted her side did not do enough to win, as they sought to end a year in which they won Euro 2022 in style. “We tried — we did a lot to score that second goal, but it didn’t go in,” she said. “[The year has been] very nice, although I’m a little disappointed with this game. It’s incredible what has happened since last September.”

The opening exchanges were a difficult watch — Norway had no intentions of repeating the 8-0 horror show from the Euros group stage. Instead, they sat deep, all 11 players in their own half, attempting the occasional counterattack.

Maya Le Tissier, the debutant who became the first player from Guernsey to play for England in 25 years — since Matt Le Tissier (no relation) — was one of three changes from the 4-0 victory over Japan on Friday. As they began to stretch the Norwegian defence, England found joy out wide and Wiegman signalled for Chloe Kelly and Nikita Parris to switch flanks.

Almost immediately the move bore fruit — as most things have in Wiegman’s successful reign — with Kelly curling in a cross that Daly nodded in.

Daly was making a rare start for her country as a striker, where she plays for Aston Villa, rather than her usual role for England at full back. “It is special wearing the No 9 shirt; it was the number my dad wore when he played, so even more special,” she said afterwards.

It looked as though England would canter to victory after Sonstevold picked up two yellow cards for fouls on Parris, but Ellie Roebuck, the second-choice goalkeeper, misjudged a long ball and allowed Maanum to nip in and finish.

England (4-3-3): E Roebuck 5 — M Le Tissier 7, M Bright 6 (E Morgan 46min, 6), A Greenwood 7 (A Russo 63, 7), N Charles 7 — K Walsh 7 (K Zelem 46, 6), E Toone 7, L James 6 (G Stanway 46, 6) — N Parris 6 (K Robinson 83), R Daly 8, C Kelly 6.
Norway (4-3-3): A Mikaelsen 7 — T Bjelde 6 (M Thorisdottir 73), G Bergsvand 6, M Harviken 6, A Sonstevold 4 — L Naalsund 6 (F Maanum 61 7), I Engen 7, G Reiten 7 — A Eikeland 6 (V Boe Risa 73), S Haug 6, E Haavi 7 (J Blakstad 45, 6) **Booked** Sonstevold. **Sent off** Sonstevold.

Lennon, 35, retires after ‘20 amazing years at top’

The former England and Tottenham Hotspur winger Aaron Lennon announced his retirement from football yesterday (Hamzah Khalique-Loonat writes).

Lennon, 35, was a free agent after his contract with Burnley expired in the summer. He earned 21 caps for England and featured in both the 2006 and 2010 World Cup campaigns.

The winger made his Premier League debut aged 16 years and 129 days for Leeds United and also played for Everton, while he spent a single season in Turkey with Kayserispor.

In a statement Lennon said: “I’ve finally decided that the time is right to hang my boots up. It has been a very tough decision as football has been my life since probably the age of three and the last 20 years playing at the very top has been so amazing.”

Winstanley finally follows Potter to Stamford Bridge

Chelsea have apppointed Paul Winstanley as their director of global talent and transfers. The Brighton & Hove Albion head of recruitment will link up again with Graham Potter, after eight years on the south coast.

Winstanley will take up his new post immediately and is the sixth Brighton staff member to follow Potter to Stamford Bridge since he replaced Thomas Tuchel as manager in September. “It’s not been an easy decision but the opportunity was too great to turn down,” Winstanley said on the Brighton website. “While I had no desire to leave Brighton, as the club has been amazing to me, this was something I had to pursue.”

The Chelsea chairman, Todd Boehly, and co-controlling owner, Behdad Eghbali, said in a joint statement: “Paul is going to be a great addition to Chelsea. He is highly respected and is a key senior addition.”

Results

Football

FA Cup
First-round replays

AFC Wimbledon (0) **3** **Weymouth** (0) **1**
Assal 48, Chislett 61, 64 — Ash 78
3,672

Cambridge U (0) **0** **Curzon Ashton** (0) **0**
2,222
(aet; Cambridge Utd win 4-2 on pens)

Derby (3) **5** **Torquay Utd** (0) **0**
Ellis 7 (og), Osula 15, Thompson 38, Dobbin 62, McGoldrick 79

Gillingham (1) **1** **AFC Fylde** (0) **0**
Walker 43

Hartlepool (0) **1** **Solihull Moors** (1) **1**
Tumilty 90 — Barnett 8
2,170
(aet; Hartlepool win 4-3 on pens)

Vanarama National League: North Buxton 0 Scarborough 1; Hereford 0 Peterborough Sports 1; Southport 1 King’s Lynn 1. **South** Braintree 0 Farnborough 0; Chippenham 0 Havant & Waterlooville 3; Oxford City 3 Dover 1.

SPFL Trust Trophy Dunfermline 2 Celtic U21 1.

Women’s international matches

England (1) **1** **Norway** (0) **1**
Daly 33 — Maanum 80
Sent off: A Sonstevold (Norway) 72
(at Pinatar Arena, Murcia)

N Ireland (0) **1** **Italy** (0) **0**
McFadden 63

Darts

Cazoo PDC Grand Slam of Darts
Aldersley Village, Wolverhampton (England unless stated): **Group E** A Soutar (Scot) bt F Sherrock 5-2 (legs); N Aspinall bt P Wright (Scot) 5-2. **Group F** J Wattimena (Neth) bt L Gates (US) 5-1; D Heta (Aus) bt J Clayton (Wales) 5-2. **Group G** N Rafferty (N Ire) bt L Woodhouse 5-4; R Smith bt M van Gerwen (Neth) 5-4.

Snooker

Cazoo UK Championship
York Barbican: First round J Lisowski (Eng) bt Xu Si (China) 6-1; J Trump (Eng) bt Xiao Guodong (China) 6-5.

Tennis

ATP World Tour finals
Turin: Round robin: Singles F Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt R Nadal (Sp) 6-3, 6-4; C Ruud (Nor) bt T Fritz (US) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (8-6). **Doubles** M Arevalo (El Salvador) and J-J Rojer (Neth) bt M Granollers (Sp) and H Zeballos (Arg) 6-1, 6-7 (3-7), 10-7; R Ram (US) and J Salisbury (GB) bt L Glasspool (GB) and H Helioevaara (Fin) 7-5, 6-4.

Fixtures

Football

International match Turkey v Scotland (5.0, at Diyarbakir Stadium).
FA Cup: First round Woking v Oxford (7.45). **First-round replay** Salford v Peterborough (7.45).

Other sport

Darts: Aldersley Leisure Village, Wolverhampton Cazoo Grand Slam of Darts.
Snooker: York Barbican Cazoo UK Championship.

Tales from the mic: Owen, OJ and getting caught short

Clive Tyldesley, who is part of the ITV commentary team in Qatar, shares his favourite memories from World Cups



1 ENGLAND WIN A PENALTY SHOOT-OUT … ON ITV!
ITV have a reputation for knocking England out of tournaments, so when 24 million tuned in to the shoot-out against Colombia in 2018, the pressure wasn't only on England's penalty-takers — it was on my bladder too. I had not anticipated Yerry Mina's last-minute equaliser and I desperately needed to take relief before extra time. You should have seen Glenn Hoddle's face when I disappeared down the tunnel to the stadium concourse.

2 WHEN OWEN DOES THAT … YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU LIKE
I watched Michael Owen's iconic goal against Argentina in 1998 from an ITV studio in Paris. A dozen off-duty broadcasters gathered with a beer or ten to listen to the late, great Brian Moore call the game. I learnt a sage lesson about commentary. Ten seconds after Michael had scored, we were all still jumping around and screaming. When we took our seats again, I remember saying to Peter Drury, "if we ever get to call a goal like that, we now know we can say what the f*** we like for the following ten seconds because nobody is listening to a word!".

3 OJ SIMPSON'S PART IN MY FIRST WORLD CUP
I made my World Cup debut as a BBC commentator in Pasadena in 1994. My prep work for Cameroon v Sweden was interrupted by a white Ford Bronco driven by a man called Al Cowlings. His famous passenger on that crazy night was OJ Simpson. They brought the world (and my research) to a halt. Four weeks later, Terry Venables flew into Los Angeles for the final. His first words: "Can you take me to Bundy Drive? I want to see the murder house".



4 THE GREATEST WORLD CUP GOAL THAT WAS NEVER MEANT
Me: "It's a surprise surprise goal for Brazil." Big Ron: "And the two most surprised people in the stadium are the goalkeeper and the kicker." It will never come as any consolation to David Seaman, left, that Ron Atkinson felt Ronaldinho's fateful free kick in 2002 was a fluke. He still wasn't having it in the bar four hours after England's exit.

5 AND YOUR COMMENTATORS ARE CLIVE TYLDESLEY AND GARETH SOUTHGATE
At the 2006 World Cup, he was my co-commentator on ITV. It's

Money over morals in Beckham's bid to be a billionaire

Matt Lawton
Chief Sports Correspondent, Doha



"I love being in the middle of nowhere," David Beckham declares as he looks out from beneath a Bedouin tent across the Qatari landscape. Here in Qatar, Beckham has even been asked to sell sand in the desert.

It is among a number of heavily scripted lines that the former England captain delivers in a video that features on the Qatar Airways flights transporting tens of thousands of people to Doha for the World Cup. "It's one of the best spice markets I've ever been to," says the man who married a Spice Girl, before suggesting that "the modern and the traditional fuse to create something really special" in this Gulf state.

While estimates of exactly how much the Qataris are paying Beckham to be an ambassador for this tournament seem to range from £10 million to £150 million over ten years, the 30-minute film provides a measure of what he is prepared to do for money.

Clearly, cash is important to him. This year's Sunday Times Rich List estimated the value of the Beckham family fortune at £425 million, and there are some who believe that he is driven by a desire to more than double that number and become the first billionaire footballer.

But this deal with the Qataris appears to be coming at a heavy reputational cost, judging by the criticism he has received for assisting the World Cup hosts in what amounts to a £200 billion exercise in sportswashing.

At the weekend the comedian Joe Lycett issued Beckham with an ultimatum, informing him in a social media post which has now had more than three million views that his "status as a gay icon will be shredded" unless he terminates his arrangement with Qatar before the tournament begins on Sunday. Lycett, an LGBT campaigner, points out that homosexuality is illegal in Qatar, where it is "punishable by imprisonment and, if you're Muslim, possibly even death".

Eric Cantona tore into his former Manchester United team-mate in an interview with The Athletic in September and this week Gary Lineker told the BBC that it was not something he would have signed up to.

"I would say about David, he's never really voiced his concerns about where the World Cup is," Lineker said. "So, it's not something he's ever got involved in. So can you accuse him of being… he's not hypocritical.

"If I'd have done it, I was very, very anti the bid when it was first revealed in 2010. I was in the room and I was very vocal against it, so if I was going to do something like that, I'd feel hypocritical. I don't think you could accuse Beckham of that. But you might accuse him of doing something that you might feel is fundamentally a wrong thing to do. And a lot of people will think that."

Lineker has perhaps forgotten that Beckham was also in the room. He was part of England's bid team for the 2018 World Cup that went to Zurich in December 2010, only to lose spectacularly to the Russians on the very same day that the despicable members of the Fifa executive committee also voted for Qatar to host four years later.

I can still recall Beckham appearing alongside Prince William and the prime minister at the time, David Cameron, at the top of the grand staircase inside Zurich's Baur au Lac hotel, having just emerged from the court of Jack Warner, the corrupt former Fifa powerbroker who intimated his support for England but was already on side with the Russians.

The following day the English delegation, one that also included Boris Johnson, then the mayor of London, and Jeremy Hunt, at that time the secretary of state for culture, media and sport, was utterly humiliated, receiving two votes from a Fifa executive that would eventually become the target of those dramatic police raids at the same Baur au Lac hotel.

The former England midfielder has chosen to ignore such detail and instead allowed his image to be exploited here in Doha. Anyone heading into the city from Hamad International Airport will soon be confronted by a giant poster of "Goldenballs" hanging from a skyscraper.

Beckham's position in the heart of some England fans is such that it is likely to be insulated from any political furore, and he endeared himself to the public in general by queueing for hours in central London to pay his respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II. However, there is no doubt that the 47-year-old's image is being tarnished.

It would be interesting to hear him explain himself, but a request from The Times for an interview has been ignored — beyond confirmation of receipt of an email from his representatives — and Beckham's World Cup itinerary is proving no easier to obtain. It seems when he has made appearances as an official ambassador, he has not taken any questions from the media. He has posed for plenty of photographs, including with those fan leaders also being paid by the Qataris to be here. All very cosy.

We have seen Beckham perform like a seal in the past. Back in 2003 he embarked on a ten-day tour of the Far East with his wife, Victoria, even juggling a ball in front of 60,000 fans in Ho Chi Minh City.

Those contracts involved selling chocolate to the Japanese and two-stroke motor oil to the Vietnamese, but the £10 million that the Beckhams made was regarded simply as an indication of their status as one of the most marketable couples on the planet. It was actually en route to Tokyo that news broke of Beckham's transfer from United to Real Madrid.

This time, however, brand Beckham is taking an almighty battering, and rightly so.

"It is really disappointing that he is promoting Qatar in return for a lot of money, given its dismal human-rights record," Peter Tatchell, the human rights activist, said.

"He has made a huge mistake. I hope he will think again. This doesn't square with his professed support for women's and LGBT+ rights."



Beckham meets Qatar's Sheikh Jassim bin Hamad al Thani at the last year's Arab

'My Iran players can protest

Hamzah Khalique-Loonat

The Iran head coach Carlos Queiroz has claimed that his players are free to protest against their government over women's rights and reacted aggressively when asked if he was comfortable representing an oppressive regime.

Queiroz snapped when a journalist asked the former Manchester United assistant coach: "Are you OK representing a country that represses the rights of women?"

"Which channel do you work [for]?" Queiroz, 69, replied. "How much [do] you pay me to answer that question? You are a private company, how much [do] you pay me? Talk to your boss and at the end of the World Cup I can give the answer if you make me a good offer. Don't put in my mouth words that I did not say. I'm asking how much money to answer."

As Queiroz left the press conference, he said: "I think you should start to think about what happened with immigrants in England also. Think about that."

Protests swept across Iran last month after Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, was arrested by state police for wearing an "improper" hijab. Amini died, allegedly from injuries suffered from physical abuse by the police. The Iranian state denies that police were

all downhill from there. If you replay Joe Cole volleying one of the great England goals against Sweden, the next voice you hear is that of the present manager. Gareth and I had just been discussing the wisdom of playing Joe on the left when he scored. "Why not?!" I shouted as the ball soared via a brush of the keeper's fingers and far post into the net. "Well, who needs a left foot when you can hit it with your right like that?" enthused Gareth. He was a top analyst and a top tourist. If it ever goes pear-shaped…

6 AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GREAT SIR BOBBY IN PARIS

I sat next to Sir Bobby Robson on a night off during the 1998 World Cup. He took me to the Parc des Princes to watch his Ronaldo score twice for Brazil in a 4-1 victory over Chile. I was nursing sore ribs for days. Watching football with Bobby was a physical experience. His restless enthusiasm spilled over into a salvo of digs and prods as he repeatedly drew my bruised attention to Ronaldo's latest run or surge.

"Look, look, look!"

"I am looking, Bobby!"

If the Chilean defence had got half as close to Ronaldo as Bobby got to me, they could've reached the last eight.

7 'THE HAND OF GOD NOW BELONGS TO ME'

Luis Suárez would bite his own brother to win, so there is no point in getting too self-righteous about his goalline handball that denied Ghana a place in the semi-finals in 2010, right. But to then claim divine intervention?! The Ghanaians had become Africa's team at Africa's World Cup. It was the most biased commentary I've ever delivered. I called him "an anti-hero". But when Suárez said: "the hand of God now belongs to me", he was cutting through the innocence of our football dreams to the core of what it takes to win a World Cup. Ruthless focus.



8 MARADONA — 'YOU HAVE TO SAY THAT'S MAGNIFICENT'

To Kenneth Wolstenholme, the honour of the most famous commentary line in World Cup history, to Barry Davies, the one that said the most. Four short minutes after denouncing Diego Maradona's first goal in the 1986 quarter-final, Barry found the very essence of England's grudging sense of fair play by anointing the second with: "You have to say that's magnificent."

9 THE GREATEST 30 SECONDS IN FOOTBALL HISTORY

Brazil's fourth goal in the 1970 World Cup final is the greatest that has ever been scored. I am probably older than most of you reading this and may even have seen more goals than any of you. Take it from me, if YouTube could keep only one goal for perpetuity, it would be Carlos Alberto's against Italy. Just one 'but' … if you watch the goal back, ask yourself would VAR have disallowed it for the tackle by which Brazil won the ball 30 seconds earlier?

10 TEARS FOR MANDELA

Nelson Mandela's appearance before the 2010 final is the only time I have cried at a World Cup match.

It was the last of 30 special nights touring a South Africa that embraced the World Cup proudly. ITV provided us with a security presence every inch of the way and one of our "minders" was a stocky Afrikaner that had worked as a bodyguard for FW de Klerk during his presidency. He stood alongside me clapping his hands and crying his eyes out. "That man," he said as I moved my headphone to one side to take more of the moment in, "that man has saved our country." Cue my tears.

Clive Tyldesley is part of the ITV commentary team in Qatar.

DAVID RAMOS/FIFA/GETTY IMAGES



Cup – 11 years after he was part of England's World Cup bid with Prince William

– just like yours take a knee'

responsible for her death, attributing it to "pre-existing conditions".

This week Iran issued its first death penalty for a person participating in the protests, for allegedly setting fire to a government building. It followed a vote this month in which lawmakers approved the implementation of the death penalty for serious crimes against the state.

Last month, Iran's male footballers wore jackets to cover up the national team badges before playing a friendly match against Senegal, in what appeared to be a show of support for the protests. All but two players also chose not to sing the national anthem during their most recent warm-up match, against Nicaragua.

"The players are free to protest as they would if they were from any other country as long as it conforms with the World Cup regulations and is in the spirit of the game," Queiroz said yesterday in Qatar. "Iran is exactly like your country. It follows the spirit of the game and the laws of Fifa. That's how you express yourself in football, according to those principles and values.

"Everybody has the right to express themselves. You guys bend your knees in the games. Some people agree, some people don't agree with that, and Iran is exactly the same."

Wales agree to drone alone amid spying fears

Gary Jacob

Wales have had to agree special time slots for when they can fly a drone over their training ground in Qatar to prevent a potential row with Japan, who are based at the same complex.

The teams will each be using drones to film their sessions as they prepare for the World Cup finals and wanted to avoid the risk of accusations of spying or even a mid-air collision.

Wales and Japan are in different groups for the tournament but could meet in the quarter-finals. They are both using the Al Sadd Sports Club training ground, where a big wall separates the two camps. Drone footage can help teams work on tactical shape and set plays during follow-up meetings after training sessions between the staff and players. Gareth Bale, who scored from direct free kicks in the play-off matches against Austria and Ukraine to qualify for the finals, can also use it to help with his routines.

Wales will hold their first session at the site tomorrow before the team's opening group B match against United States on Monday, followed by games against Iran and England. They picked the training ground as it has a large gym area, big enough to have a space in which players can relax after sessions.

Japan are in group E along with Spain, Germany and Costa Rica. Because of the lack of available facilities in a small country, many nations are sharing training sites, including the hosts Qatar, Australia and Ghana, who are based at the Aspire Academy. Holland, Argentina and Spain are training at Qatar University, while Denmark and Cameroon are at Al Sailiya SC.

Unlike in previous tournaments, some teams will stay in the same hotel and use the same training bases throughout the tournament, even carrying out their sessions the day before matches at their camps rather than the stadiums.

James: Dad set me on World Cup path

Gary Jacob

Dan James will honour his late father's endeavour and devotion when he walks on to the biggest stage of his career as Wales start their World Cup campaign on Monday.

The winger was coached by his dad, Kevan, as a child, ushered by him towards playing for Wales at the age 12 and given his blessing to move from his hometown, Hull, to continue his football dream at Swansea City aged 16. Swansea had spotted him playing for Wales's schoolboys against Poland.

Kevan was born in Aberdare and moved to East Riding of Yorkshire to work for a quarrying company. The proud Welshman watched his son make his Wales debut in 2018 and was present at Cardiff City Stadium when he scored his first goal for the country against Slovakia in a Euro 2020 qualifier in March 2019.

But months later Kevan died aged 60, just as his son was set to join Manchester United for £15 million. James started to shed a tear when he reflected on the journey.

"I always think of him when I pull on that Wales shirt," James said.

"I wouldn't be in this position today without him. I'm so glad that before he passed away he got to see me play for Wales. He took me everywhere, taking time off work to take me to places."

Kevan, a rugby fan, also encouraged his son to play other sports, including athletics and cricket. James, 25, will be supported in Qatar by his mother, Elaine, and older sibling Alex, a county badminton player, as well as his partner and 13-month-old son Layke, who has changed his perspective on football.

"Having a little one changes your life for the better," he said. "Coming home every day saying, 'You've had a bad day in training' but then going home to that always gives you a spark and strives you on to do more. I don't think it's changed the way I play football. But family is so important."

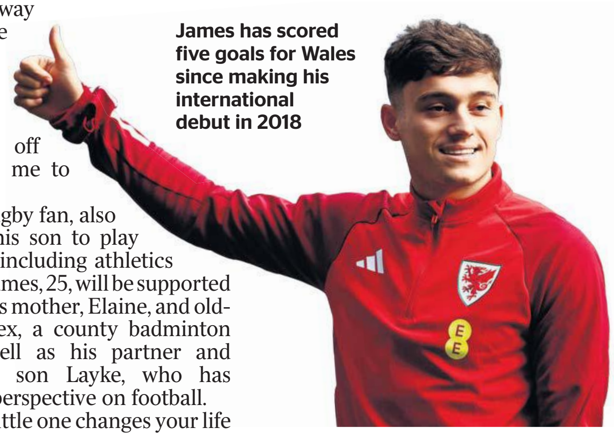
James left Manchester for Leeds United in August last year, but wanted to play regularly before the finals and joined Fulham on loan in the summer, choosing them over Tottenham Hotspur. He has played in eight league matches for Marco Silva's side and scored his first goal in the 2-1 defeat by Manchester United on Sunday.

"I loved Leeds, the place and my family loved it there and it was tough, I was thinking about more game time and I've never thought since I've made the wrong decision," he said. "I spoke to the gaffer [Silva] at Fulham and felt that was the best move for me at that moment."

James knows a good number of the United States players he will face in Wales's opening group B match on Monday. He also knows Tyler Adams and Brenden Aaronson, the Leeds United pair, and could play directly against Antonee Robinson and Tim Ream, both defenders and Fulham team-mates. "They've said about giving me a few kicks in training," he said. "Antonee and I are both quick. He's a great player, he has been absolutely unbelievable this season. Going forward he's been great.

"He's always a problem for wingers because he'll always run you that way. But he's been incredible defensively as well. Maybe people doubted him going to the Premier League. Is he going to do the defensive side that much because he's classed as an attacking full back?

"He's definitely shown that and if we do play against each other it would be a good match-up."



James has scored five goals for Wales since making his international debut in 2018

World Cup Qatar 2022

BRILLIANT 36-PAGE GUIDE TO THE TOURNAMENT

Exclusive columns from Wayne Rooney, Ashley Williams and David Moyes, free in Saturday's newspaper

DAILY NEWSLETTER

Sign up to get our daily World Cup newsletter during the tournament. Monday to Friday our reporters in Qatar will be writing about their experiences covering the tournament in a daily diary plus you will get links to the best match reports, news and analysis.

Sign up at: thetimes.co.uk/worldcupnewsletter

Trippier: We're here to win, we're

Henry Winter

Chief Football Writer



Kieran Trippier cannot wait. For training at the World Cup, for the games, just for that chance to pull on that England shirt. Trippier is so committed to the England cause, so willing to feature anywhere for Gareth Southgate, that he's played 20 times at right wingback, six at right back, once at left wingback and ten at left back. Just anywhere. Just let him on the field.

Just listen to him. "No disrespect to the Champions League or Europa League, but when I'm going into the England camp and put on that shirt, I still get goosebumps like it was my first one against France," Trippier says, with reference to his international debut in 2017. "It's just different, the excitement, the buzz.

"When you see Madders [James Maddison] put up photos of when he was a young kid [in red England shirt, face painted with the cross of St George], he's proud of the challenges he's had in his whole career and what he's sacrificed to make a major tournament, so full credit to him because he absolutely deserves it."

Talking of Maddison, there may be a tussle for free kicks if the pair happen to be on the field at the same time in Qatar. "He's probably one of the best in the world, Madders," Trippier says of the Leicester City player. "If we're both playing and he wants a free kick, we'll just have to do rock, paper, scissors on the pitch."

For relentless positivity, there are few in Trippier's league. For sheer, sustained determination, few can match him. He has overcome so much in his professional life, constantly having to prove himself, moving between clubs, even countries, proving himself again and again. Just as he plays, driving up the flanks, Trippier keeps riding challenges and setbacks and keeps charging on. He's never been more appreciated. At 32, he is acclaimed as the leader of a resurgent Newcastle United and hailed as a vital defender for England, probably starting against Iran on Monday.

At the heart of his journey is hunger. A decade on from having failed to make it at Manchester City, Trippier is 11 games shy of 500 appearances for Barnsley, Burnley, Tottenham Hotspur, Atletico Madrid, Newcastle and England. "How many games is it?" he laughs, over Zoom. "I didn't think it was that many. I love football, I just absolutely love it, like the other night when we played in the Carabao Cup, the manager [Eddie Howe] asked me to come on and help the team, no problem. I want to play as many games as I can. Yes, I'm 32 but I still feel young. I don't feel like I'm slowing down anytime soon.

"Throughout my career I've had a lot of setbacks. There have been camps where I've not been selected for England and it gave me time to reflect on what I need to do, how can I get back into the England team."

Trippier played in the 2018 World Cup and at Euro 2020, but was omitted from the Nations League finals squad of 2019. "I didn't get called up, but then it's about my personality to drive myself back into the team and fight for my shirt, and just show Gareth that I can still play at the highest level possible," he says.

He has always had this drive to improve. "When I was younger I used to go out a lot," he recalls of his early Burnley days. "Sean Dyche sat me down and gave me a good grilling. A lot of people say Sir Alex Ferguson has the hairdryer treatment. Sean definitely has that as well. I've been on the end of it a few times. It's not pleasant. The learning curve for me was moving to Tottenham, out of my comfort zone, me and my girlfriend [Charlotte], my wife now; out of the bubble from where I grew up, and it's just about learning, all the experiences that you have through travelling Europe and you just mature as a player. Certainly, the past seven to eight years I've definitely looked after my body better.

> 'I'll have to do rock, paper, scissors with Maddison over who takes free kicks'

"The biggest thing for me is moving to Spain and learning with [Atletico's coach Diego] Simeone on and off the pitch. I learnt so much and I came back to England as a more complete, more mature player."

He has shone under Howe at Newcastle, almost running games from right back. His delivery to Joe Willock against Southampton at St Mary's, a pass reminiscent of Kevin De Bruyne, was a sublime assist.

Typically, Trippier transfers praise to others. "The manager's brilliant on the patterns of play. He wants people like Joe, Joelinton and 'Miggy' Almirón to break the lines because they're so quick and have got a good finish. It's something we've worked on." Under Howe and his assistant, Jason Tindall, Trippier works assiduously on dead balls. "We spend a lot of time on the pitch on set plays, corners, wide free kicks and we've managed to score quite a few this season from set plays," he says. "You look in major tournaments over the years, the amount of games won from decisive set pieces, they're absolutely crucial. We've got the delivery and the presence to get on the end of them for England."

Before heading out to Qatar, he enjoyed some World Cup chat with Bruno Guimarães, his charismatic Brazilian club-mate. "We've had a bit of banter because somebody mentioned us and Brazil can cross paths." Possibly in the final. "Ah, is it? Bruno tries to wind us up all the time with how much quality England have got and when we play each other we're not going to beat Brazil, so he's trying to play mind games already. He's a really good, bubbly character, a really nice guy and he's taken the Premier League by storm as well."

Trippier plays right back for Newcastle, but on either flank for England. "Many people might not want to see a right-footer playing at left back, I totally understand that," he says. "But if Gareth says to me, like [against] Croatia at the first game of the Euros, that he wants me to play left back, then no problem, I'll give 100 per cent. We won the game.

"Yes, it's different coming inside [from the left] but I'm experienced enough to know what the person in front of me — whether it's Raheem [Sterling] or Jack [Grealish] — needs. I will give everything for the cause, the shirt, no matter where I play."

As for the differences for him between playing full back or wingback, Trippier says: "I'd say it's more running, especially wingback. Chelsea — a couple of years ago — did it the best with 'Chilli' [Ben Chilwell] and Reece [James]. You need to be fit and keep running up and down that line because ultimately your job is to defend first, but you need to join in the attack and create as much as you can."

Inopportune injuries to James and Chilwell mean that Trippier, who has been given the No12 shirt, is now Southgate's No1 right back and No2 left back. Trent Alexander-Arnold, Ben White and, when fit, Kyle Walker, provide competition on the right.

"It's never a certainty when you go away with England, there are so many right backs out there," Trippier says.

"Full backs are very important now, with the way teams use the full backs for the width. I can go back to the World Cup in 2018 when it was two or three of us [Trippier, Walker, Alexander-Arnold, although Phil Jones could play right back]. There are so many now; there about seven right backs." Trippier was watching Chelsea's game away to AC Milan in the Champions League, when James injured his knee, ruling him out of the World Cup.

"I'm really close with Reece and the way he went down, you could see straight away [it was a bad injury] and it's not nice to see," he says. "I'm realistic. I know I'm up against Trent and Reece, who are 24, 22 [respectively]. I know I'm ten years older than them. It makes me sound old.

"I probably won't be there for the next World Cup. I'm not saying I'm retiring, but I've got to respect that I'm up against very good right backs, unbelievable competition, younger players.

"I'll never ever retire from England until the manager tells me otherwise, I'll always give my all if I'm called upon. I'll never quit."

He agrees with the suggestion that Southgate is under-appreciated. "Of course. Us players need to take responsibility for the past couple of games when the results haven't gone our way," he says.

Again, this is typical Trippier, taking responsibility, even when he wasn't playing. He stayed on the bench for the defeat by Italy in Milan and draw with Germany at Wembley in the Nations League in September.

"I feel, for sure, Gareth's under-appreciated because of what he's done since he first arrived until now, how far he's taken us as a group, to a semi-final of the World Cup and the Nations League, and the final of the Euros," he says. "He deserves more credit. He's a brilliant manager. What him and Steve [Holland, his assistant] have done is remarkable.

"All the players respect Gareth and Steve, and he respects all the players. The thing I really like about Gareth and I've been in this situation, is he makes you feel valued even if you're not in the starting XI. That's the most important thing as a player. If I ever go into coaching or management, that's the first thing I'd do."

Southgate has improved the culture around England and the bond with fans. "He's changed everything, what



England's Jack Grealish and Mason Mount were handed flowers upon arriving at the team's hotel in Doha





How England's free-kick kings compare

KIERAN TRIPPIER
Top-flight & international free-kick goals: 5
(3 for Newcastle, 1 for Tottenham, 1 for England)

JAMES MADDISON
Top-flight & international free-kick goals: 8
(All for Leicester City)

not scared to say it

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JACK HILL; EDDIE KEOGH/THE FA/GETTY IMAGES





Prince William, above, presents an England shirt to Raheem Sterling before the squad set off for Qatar, where Harry Kane led them off the plane last night, below





James Maddison carries a Louis Vuitton keepall bag. Similarly colourful bags retail for about £3,000 and up to £32,500



England's band of local supporters are ecstatic as they greet the arrival of Gareth Southgate's squad at their hotel in Doha

England's itinerary

Today England's first full training session in Qatar

Sunday Gareth Southgate speaks before first match

Monday England v Iran, Khalifa International Stadium, 1pm

Friday, Nov 25 England v USA, Al Bayt Stadium, 7pm

Tuesday, Nov 29 Wales v England, Ahmad Bin Ali Stadium, 7pm

it means to play for the badge now," Trippier says. "Looking at the past two tournaments, we've come so much closer together, the supporters and the team. Coming out of St George's [Park] on the way to the final [of Euro 2020 at Wembley last July] seeing thousands and thousands of fans just all the way down, it was remarkable. We're going into this tournament to win it, of course we are. We want to bring everyone together again."

Trippier has such belief in Southgate, Holland and the squad that he is not afraid to back England to win the World Cup. "We shouldn't be going into a tournament scared of saying we want to win it," he adds. "We should go there with that mindset to win the tournament and don't be afraid to say it. We want to go one step further to actually win a tournament. We all feel confident as a group, we've got a fantastic 26-man squad — unbelievable talent in there, a mixture of experience and youth."

It is just fine margins, such as losing control to Croatia in the semi-final in Moscow four years ago. "If you look at the first half I thought we were brilliant," Trippier says. "In the second half, you have the experience of [Ivan] Rakitic and [Luka] Modric and players like that and they just dictated the midfield. Game-management and experience is key."

The margins were even finer at Euro 2020, when England lost to Italy on penalties in the final. He converted his kick in the round-of-16 shoot-out against Colombia in 2018, but was replaced after 70 minutes against Italy. If still on the field, he will volunteer to Southgate. "I would, 100 per cent. I'm a confident guy so if they want me to be in the first five, I'll take one, no problem."

England's family feel extends to keeping an eye out for each other.

"The most important thing is if players go through moments where they're down or missing their families that myself, [Harry] Maguire, [Harry] Kane, all the older people, especially during the Euros [keep an eye on them]…it's good to speak to people to make sure they're OK," he says. "Everybody goes through bad days, but we have that great unity within the squad to notice that if we do see someone feeling down."

He will miss Charlotte and his three children. "My wife will probably stick a few pictures in of the kids and family so I can put them up next to my TV," he says. "England are brilliant, especially in Russia — they had photos of our families which was a great touch. It made our rooms feel like home.

"I'm used to it now and my wife is as well. She can't wait for me to get away! In Russia we were away a long time and the Euros too. I deal with it fine. I'm obsessed with football."



For relentless positivity and energy, there are few players who can compare to Trippier

'None of us are paid – we're diehard fans'

CONTINUED FROM BACK

engineer, said the majority of the Indian fans were from Kerala, where they have a mural of England's players and from where they followed the team during the 2018 World Cup, flanked by an 80ft cardboard cutout of Kane. He estimates that there are 700,000 England fans in that region of southern India, and insisted that claims they were "fake fans" was "fake news".

"None of us are getting paid," he said. "We are diehard England fans. My favourite player was David Beckham, but now it is [Bukayo] Saka. If someone offered to pay us to support England we would turn them down. We are genuine supporters. Many of us grew up watching Beckham and Michael Owen. Our love is to this team."

Niyas, also 29, nodded, explaining that many of them had managed to purchase tickets for England's games. "We made these England tops ourselves," he said. "No one gave them to us. Argentina is the most supported team among Indians in Qatar, followed by Brazil. But then it is England."

The welcoming party inside the team's five-star base included a camel and a falcon. Camel rides are available on the beach should anyone fancy it.

Speaking on *The Lions' Den* show on England's YouTube channel before departing, Kane, the captain, said: "I'm excited, a World Cup is a special occasion. I think for most professionals it is the biggest tournament you can play in as a player, and I have been lucky enough to do one and it was one of the greatest experiences of my life. Everyone is match fit and ready to go, and come Monday we should be ready."

Southgate, meanwhile, has remained in regular contact with Harry Maguire in the countdown to the World Cup, to underline his faith in him. The England manager has made calls to, and checks on, Maguire during the turbulent period in which he has found himself out of the Manchester United team amid a dip in form.

Despite those difficulties Southgate considers Maguire as one of his main players. It is understood that he would be a candidate along with Raheem Sterling to wear the captain's armband should Kane and the vice-captain, Jordan Henderson, not be on the pitch. Southgate has gone out of his way to instil confidence in Maguire, who made two mistakes and suffered an injury in England's most recent match, the 3-3 draw with Germany in September, and has made only two starts since then for United.

Yet Southgate's backing indicates that Maguire is in line to start England's opening fixture in Qatar against Iran on Monday as he looks for the 29-year-old to emerge as a key performer, just as he was at the 2018 World Cup and the European Championship last summer.



Camel rides, inset, are available on the beach outside England's five-star hotel

Newcastle's form lifts Pope

Martin Hardy

Nick Pope is under no illusions that he heads to the World Cup finals as England's No 2 goalkeeper, but that cannot hide the burning ambition to eventually become No 1.

Pope's journey to a second finals has been longer than most: he was released at 16 by Ipswich Town, then sent out on numerous loans after signing for Charlton Athletic but he now has the joint-most clean sheets in the Premier League this season, with Newcastle United sitting in third place.

The 6ft 6in Pope insists he is a different player to the one who travelled to Russia four years ago, when he was England's No 3 goalkeeper, but he is likely to play second fiddle to Jordan Pickford, who remains first choice.

"Four years ago, I had only just played 35 games in the Premier League, so I was over the moon just to be in the squad," Pope, 30, said. "So it does feel different this time around."

Pope's error allowed Kai Havertz to score a late equaliser in the 3-3 draw with Germany at Wembley in September, but he has learnt to cope with such setbacks. "That is all part of being a goalkeeper," he said. "After that game, I got a few texts and it was as if someone had died, but for me, it is so much not about that. It is a case of carrying on [and] coming back to Newcastle. There were some big games to play in and fortunately for us, it's gone very well."

Beer price promise broken

Matt Lawton Doha

England fans who want a drink at the World Cup will have to pay nearly £12 for less than a pint despite pre-tournament promises that a beer would be significantly cheaper.

Qatar's 2022 organisers had indicated that the country's strict drink laws and high prices for alcohol would be relaxed for the four weeks football supporters will descend on Doha. They said the price of a beer would be dropped to between £5 and £8.

However, Fifa's official beer supplier, Budweiser, is charging 50 Qatari Riyals — equivalent to £11.60 — for a 500ml beer.

Only Budweiser will be available at any official World Cup site, including the fan parks, and the company has now issued an advertising flyer detailing the cost.

It urges fans to "Drink Wiser, Cheer Better, Hydrate Between Buds", and at that price supporters will undoubtedly have to consume less alcohol than they had planned.

Indeed, the flyer states, clearly motivated by concerns that drunk fans could run into trouble with the local authorities who frown upon such behaviour, that fans must prove they are over 21 and will be limited to a "maximum purchase of four units per person".

It adds: "Budweiser is proud to be served in compliance with the local rules and regulations."

Sport

Tuilagi's treble chance

England centre has sights on his third win over All Blacks

Rugby union, pages 66-67



MIKE HEWITT/FIFA/GETTY IMAGES



Even an airport bus transfer could not wipe the smiles off the faces of England's Ben White, centre, and Jude Bellingham, right, after they landed in Qatar yesterday

Welcome to the World Cup

England greeted in Qatar by hundreds of fans who insist: 'We're not fake'

Matt Lawton Chief Sports Correspondent, Doha **Paul Joyce**

England arrived at their team hotel in Doha last night to a chorus of "It's coming home" — but the fact it was delivered by hundreds of supporters who felt the need to prove they were genuine underlined what an unusual World Cup this promises to be.

Against the backdrop of reports about fake fans being paid by the host nation to create an atmosphere, these supporters — predominantly expats from India working in Qatar — insisted they were the real deal.

They said they had printed their own shirts, pointed out WhatsApp groups boasting almost a thousand members and rattled off the names of players with the expertise of supporters who have long devoured Premier League football. They even had their own band.

When the team bus arrived at the Souq Al Wakra hotel, to the south of the city, they charged down a police barrier to get closer to their heroes.

Harry Kane got a huge cheer but the supporters were even louder when Gareth Southgate turned to give them a wave. "Southgate is our super coach, Sterling is our super star, Pickford is our super keeper," they cried.

England certainly arrived in positive mood. Before departing for Qatar, Kieran Trippier said: "We should go there with that winning mindset to win the tournament and don't be afraid to say it." Sajidh, a 29-year-old mechanical

Continued on page 73

Gatland: Stop Erasmus posts

John Westerby

Warren Gatland has said that Rassie Erasmus has no defence for his controversial tweets about the referee Wayne Barnes and says the South African Rugby Union should instruct its director of rugby to refrain from further posts.

After the Springboks' 30-26 defeat by France on Saturday, their second consecutive loss, Erasmus released several videos on social media drawing attention to calls made by Barnes, accompanied by sarcastic comments.

Erasmus only recently returned to match-day activities after a one-year ban, having released a video criticising a referee during the series last year against the British & Irish Lions. He claimed yesterday that his tweets were not critical of Barnes, but Gatland's comments will increase the pressure on

Continued on page 67

'Covid link' to Warne's death

James Salmon Perth

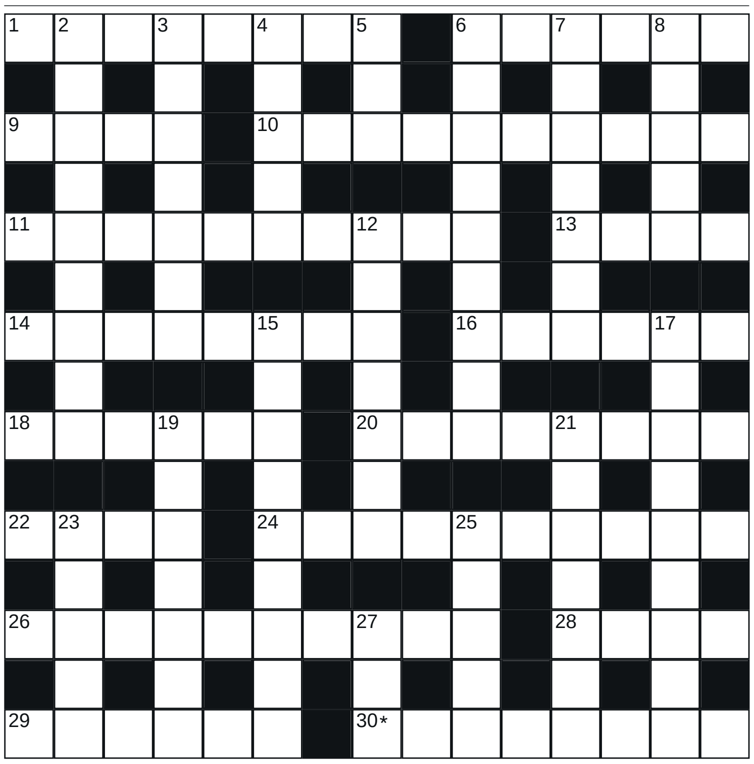
One of Australia's most high-profile health experts has suggested that Shane Warne's fatal heart attack may have been triggered by contracting Covid a few weeks earlier.

The former Australia leg spinner died in Thailand on March 4, aged 52, not long after testing positive for the virus. A few days later, the Labor party senator, Kimberley Kitching, also died of a suspected heart attack at the same age. She was being treated for a thyroid condition that was contributing to heart problems and Dr Norman Swan, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's health expert, said it was "too much of a coincidence" that the pair died not long after a Covid infection.

Dr Swan said: "It is being reported around the world that Covid causes

Continued on page 64

Times Crossword 28,449



ACROSS

1 Disabled, and one is excused from voting (8)
6 March up and down a row of shops (6)
9 Polish river, or German (4)
10 Huge fuss about king being a control freak (3,7)
11 Chelsea net billowing? That's this gone (5,5)
13 Tie finally put on to twist and knot (4)
14 Shortly officially approve introducing freezing cold transport (8)
16 Each day, sent in to cut one of these? (6)
18 Prove wrong to get out of bed? (6)
20 Blend of fragrances around garden regularly advanced (4,4)
22 Cut made in Christmas liturgy (4)
24 Burst of train speed unexciting (10)
26 Employ Greek and old Arab outside sporting estate (6,4)
28 Much to dish out to audience (1,3)
29 A creation of Dumas on page that arouses pity (6)
30 Bumbling constable has fruit on stalk (8)

DOWN

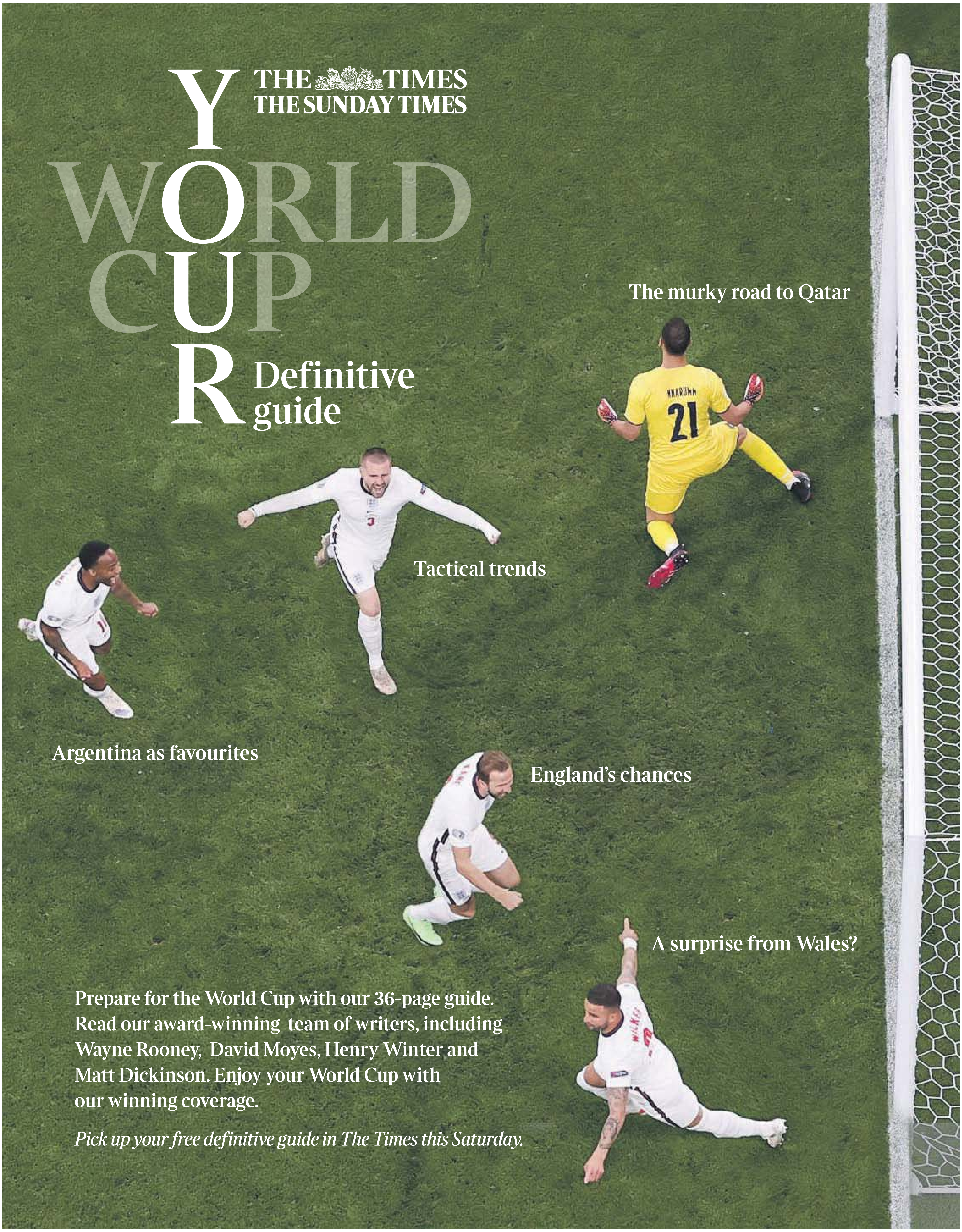
2 Girl composed verse full of ecstasy (9)
3 About to visit a girl grown up by this time (7)
4 Puzzle of extremely reliable boat capsizing (5)
5 Turned up in canoe, but missing out (3)
6 Break watch: one's not always working (4-5)
7 Decay beneath said building (7)
8 Large number Hun eliminated, inspiring a terror (5)
12 Not entirely straightforward to look after soap setting (4,3)
15 Romantic group seek a plot for development (4,5)
17 One patronising royal house perhaps as poor — agree to differ (9)
19 Fantasy husband off to look for pity once (7)
21 Two sorts of European closely related (7)
23 Grub puts a lot of fat on Virginia (5)
25 Show indifference right through small embrace (5)
27 Not paired off, daughters need love first of all (3)

Yesterday's solution 28,448



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

Newspapers support recycling
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2020 was 67%


THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
YOUR WORLD CUP
Definitive guide
The murky road to Qatar
Tactical trends
Argentina as favourites
England's chances
A surprise from Wales?
Prepare for the World Cup with our 36-page guide. Read our award-winning team of writers, including Wayne Rooney, David Moyes, Henry Winter and Matt Dickinson. Enjoy your World Cup with our winning coverage.
Pick up your free definitive guide in The Times this Saturday.



LOUIS VUITTON

TIMES2

November 16 | **2022**





How to be a WAG

As the World Cup kicks off, fashion editor Harriet Walker glams up to show us how it's done

Funny and low on ego, Mike Tindall is playing a blinder in the jungle

Carol Midgley



Amid the (now boring) fuss over Matt Hancock eating a sheep's vagina and being bitten by a scorpion on *I'm a Celebrity* ("It was a horrible, scarring experience but I'm feeling much better now thanks," said the scorpion), we probably shouldn't lose sight of this. Mike Tindall is quietly playing a blinder.

King Charles picked a good time to promote his sister because her son-in-law is on TV displaying the sort of "relatable guy" stuff that Charles has reportedly long craved for the royal family. If we don't count the small matter of their £17 billion of assets, never having to worry about the gas bill and the fact that Prince Andrew, once accused of nonce crimes, demanded servants arrange his teddies on his bed in the exact order as specified on a laminated diagram, then they're exactly like us. Last week Tindall said he and Zara Tindall like nothing more than getting drunk together, thus endearing him to the country's substantial "thirsty" demographic in one sentence. And this week he told how Princess Anne once made a dry joke about her son-in-law's testicles. How modern! I bet your mother-in-law doesn't joke about your testicles. She does? Righto; please don't write in.

I should explain that Tindall was enthusiastically "slut-drop" dancing with Princess Anne at Zara's Seventies-themed birthday party when his trousers split, revealing his boxer shorts. "I had flares on, full outfit but it was quite tight, nothing ever fits — rugby player's bum and legs," he said. OK, Mike. Don't make us picture it. When the trousers ripped they showed that his underpants bore the words "nibble my nuts". Princess Anne beheld the spectacle for a moment and said: "I'd rather not." Good response.

Now obviously it's a bit of a humble brag, isn't it, to say nothing ever fits the rugby player's bum and legs? Ooh, it's such a burden, having these stonking, muscly thighs that could crack an assailant's skull. Although, fair play, I bet the chub-rub is no laughing matter. Chafey. And it goes without saying that no one should



ever wear novelty underwear past the age of ten. No exceptions. Even the word "nuts" in this context is bleurgh. I always imagine that adult men who wear novelty underwear make parping noises when pretending to squeeze women's breasts and own a "fun" willy warmer (please note, willy warmers are not "fun". Nor are those undies that bear the message "sleeping beast within". Trying to help). I know of a woman who wore knickers, the seat of which bore the slogan, "It's not going to spank itself!" I died a little that day.

But, boxer shorts aside, Tindall stands a decent chance of significantly increasing his popularity in this lame TV show. Many people expected the exact opposite. Yes, in his Domino's TV ad he displays all the acting skills of a fence post but he seems ordinary, funny, without much ego and the person you could make a cup of tea for in your house without worrying that the mug was a bit stained. He probably won't win the show but it's not impossible. Previous male winners have included Joe Pasquale, Joe Swash and Christopher Biggins. The viewers like men who make them laugh.

And let's not forget, he did call out Matt Hancock's professed reasons for entering the show (to "peel myself back a bit", to show the "human" behind the politician's podium, to "raise awareness of dyslexia") as "bullshit, bullshit, bullshit". Actually, I take it back. Those three words would sit quite well on Matt's undies.

The new life coach buzzword

Are you guilty of "worthsplaining"? Coined by a life coach, it means constantly feeling the need to justify yourself because you don't really feel "worth it".

If someone admires your new jumper you shriek: "It was in the sale!" When a hell colleague invites you to their party, instead of saying, "I'd rather put a body part through a mincer", you say, "Great! See you Saturday", then wonder if amputating a leg is a passable excuse.

But hold on. Isn't this just called "being British"? Everyone knows that the British self-deprecate and tell fibs as instinctively as they breathe and can't take a compliment to save their lives. "You're looking well" is met with: "So you're saying my face is fat?"

If you tell an American "I love your hair" they'll say: "That's so kind! I think the colour suits me." Say the same to a Brit and they'll snap: "Are you mad? It makes me look like an orangutan. Don't even look at me."

I'm reminded of the joke about the woman who begged her husband while staring in a mirror. "I look old, fat, my breasts are sagging and I'm full of wrinkles. Please, I need a compliment." "Well," he said. "Your eyesight is flawless."

How clean are your pants?

Speaking of pants, the "cleaning queen" Aggie Mackenzie says we wash underwear too frequently and, during the energy crisis, can get two days' wear out of them, not one, providing that "liners" are used. Thanks for the advice, Aggie, but I think some people are way ahead of you.

I'm looking here at a 2016 survey that found one in ten men wear their pants for a whole week without washing them and I very much doubt pantyliners were involved.

Vivienne Westwood once said she hardly ever washes bras and simply douses them in talcum powder, which must make her feel like Turkish delight. Recently the BBC reported that "nearly half of single men" admit they don't wash their bedding for four months or longer. Thereby explaining why they're single.

She hated her

The photographer Rankin says that the Queen didn't like to draw attention to her least favourite feature. Neither do we, say Hilary Rose and other Times writers

It fell to Rankin, a photographer, to tell us one final humanising titbit about our late Queen. Dispatched to take her photograph for the Golden Jubilee in 2002, he wanted to capture her holding a sword. Her Maj had other ideas. "I don't like my hands," she told him. Suffice to say, there was no sword.



Now, putting aside the fact that nobody looked at the Queen and noticed her hands, I sympathise. Over the years, I have learnt that if I complain about my breasts — and I do, bitterly — I think I'm saying: "I'm top heavy and woefully out of proportion. Poor me." What people hear, though, is me bragging: "I have slim legs and hips, a small bottom and knockers like a porn star. Poor me." Then they thump me.

So allow me to make the case for the defence, but before I do, don't be fooled by my photo. I have learnt to disappear them as best I can in photographs, and in life, because if a photo is going to haunt me in public for years to come, I'd like to look as trim and streamlined as possible, not like Hattie Jacques.

I'm mindful of the words of Nora Ephron in her book *I Feel Bad About My Neck and Other Thoughts on Being a Woman*. "Anything you think is wrong with your body at the age of 35," she wrote, "you will feel nostalgic for by the age of 45." Far be it from me to gainsay the great woman, but if your breasts are wrong at 35 they'll be even wronger at 45 and I shudder to think what 55 might hold.

> They're lurking under the layers — and they're getting bigger

So. They started big and got bigger. They used to be 32F and now they're 32G (see "sobbing not bragging" above). Short of a scalpel, I can't see any means of reversing this trend. I look at all the lovely fitted dresses out there, and I read about what an essential one-stop shop they are for busy working women everywhere, and I can't fit into any of them, not one. Why? Because if it fits round the bust, it swamps my hips. If it fits round the hips, it won't go near my bust.

With separates, throw in my high waist, and if I tuck anything in, I look like a trussed-up dumpling. I view belts and any trend for cinching your waist with equal parts envy and derision. Belts are dead to me and my waist might as well not exist for all the use it is.

It is some consolation that I no longer dream of wearing strapless dresses or spaghetti straps the way I used to in my twenties. However, any sort of clinging fabric, such as stretch jersey, is a no-no, because it will hug the underside of my boobs and make me look like, well, a tit.

Sweaters need to be super-long if they're going to look normal, because by the time they've climbed over the top, they've lost six inches in length. Bras need to be spinnaker sized and, until the advent of Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, blessed be her name, that meant beige scaffolding and trauma.

Polonecks, pussybow blouses, dresses with a round neck and fitted bodice, forget it. Pipe dreams, the lot of them, unless I want people to look at me and think, "Good LORD she's got big boobs," and I don't. No doubt hours of therapy might help me with that but, alas, I've got a living to earn and it's easier to dress them away.

I get them out for special occasions: Christmas, birthdays, hot dates. A male colleague goes misty-eyed at the memory of the Festive Knockers top, a bubblegum pink V-neck that was ever so popular at office parties.

Most of the time, though, it's easier to keep them hidden. They're still there though, lurking somewhere under the layers. And they're getting bigger. Poor me.

hands. I hate my bosoms





JOHN STILLWELL/PA; MICHAEL LECKIE AND TOM JACKSON FOR THE TIMES

From left: Queen Elizabeth II in 2011, Hilary Rose and Robert Crampton. Below: Charlie Gowans-Eglinton

‘Naked, there was no escape from my gut’

Robert Crampton

I was going to bottle it and do my feet (and to be honest, my feet are not great) but in the end I thought, “Nah, it’s got to be the paunch.” Because, while I’m not remotely happy about my feet aesthetically, and believe me, I’ve no reason to be, the truth is feet are primarily functional. Provided that they do their job, and my feet do, I’m not too fussed that they look like something belonging to a different species.

My gut, however, is the opposite of useful. Instead it is (or rather was, see below) a literal drag on my mobility, agility, energy and, at a very basic level, ability to fit through narrow openings such as present themselves on rush-hour trains and certain gates in the countryside. Sometimes, walking with my family along a crowded shopping street — Columbia Road flower market near where we live in east London, for example — I will get left behind. I claim it’s the width of my shoulders but more often than not it’s the depth of my gut. Turning sideways to negotiate a tight spot is not an option.

If the impracticality of lugging around a superfluous 20lb is bad enough, the visuals are far worse. Even clothed, your jeans (or, in extremis, trackie bottoms) slung low underneath, a belly is an ugly bugger, yet a decent chest and shoulders can distract attention from the spread lower down. Naked, there’s no escape. In profile, you get these shadowed creases along the side slopes of what shouldn’t be there. There’s something creepy, sinister, even evil, I think, about those shadows, a plurality of the seven deadly sins lurking in their depths.

If ever a woman tells you she doesn’t mind a gut on a bloke, that she likes a fuller figure as evidence of a life well lived and an absence of vanity, or as “something to keep her warm on a cold night”, she’s lying. Luckily for me, my wife doesn’t go in for any of that soft-soap nonsense. She hated my bulging one-pack, which made me hate it even more than I did already, which is what ultimately incentivised me to get rid of it this autumn. How so? The classic routine of eating less and moving around more. Old but still gold, that method.

It was only a 15lb paunch, as it turned out. I don’t look like Brad Pitt in *Fight Club*, not yet anyway, but my silhouette is pretty flat, and it feels great. More energy, more confidence, more trousers to choose from. That’s the only advantage of hating your gut, as opposed to hating your hands, or your knees, or indeed your feet. You can get rid of the damned thing.



‘My bum eats bikini bottoms for breakfast’

Charlie Gowans-Eglinton

I heard that the Queen didn’t like her hands and realised that we had something in common. I was born with squiffy little fingers, permanently bent into a pinky promise — at infants’ school, when we’d be sorted into two straight lines and asked to hold hands to walk down the street, the other children never wanted to hold mine (and I’ve had the odd grimace from a manicurist). Now that I’m older, my dislike of them has shifted — since a barman told me that he always looks at female punters’ hands to guess their ages, I apply SPF daily, and look to Madonna’s Instagram page for tips on how to style gloves with every outfit, even lingerie.

But I’ve got bigger things to worry about — or rather shorter things. I’d always wondered how people wore turtlenecks without half of their faces being swallowed up like, well, a turtle — until I had my full body measurements taken, standing like the Vitruvian woman, against an enormous sheet of white paper. The goal was to teach me how best to dress for my shape, but my main takeaway was that my neck is, irrefutably, disproportionately short.

But my greatest sadness is my bum. It was once a thing of wonder, entirely made of muscle and rock hard when tensed (once a party trick) by some quirk of nature rather than any exercise regimen. Not a single squat was needed — and if I’d asked Rankin to photograph it in its glory days, it could have held a ceremonial sword easily. But not now. After years of sedentary desk work (and still no squats) it is defeated: flatter, droopier, spreading out at the sides and with little handfuls of extra stuffing on top.

Bottoms are apparently out of fashion now that the Kardashians are swapping their famously curvy figures for straighter, skinnier ones — not that I will be making any attempt to follow suit, and nor should you, but it will inevitably mean that fashion does. These are the women with the star power that sold a bajillion G-string bikinis and the Brazilian bum lift surgeries to fill them out. Now they’ll be championing the return of low-slung jeans and micro-short skirts instead, both a pain in the arse if your own is sizeable.

My bum eats bikini bottoms for breakfast, and never fits into its allocated space on packed front row benches at fashion week — though it’s not the size that I mind. Once a perky, glass half full sort of bottom, it is now a depressive perma-frown of a thing — so it’s not that I want it to be smaller, but that I just don’t like its attitude. It’s almost enough to drive me to the gym, and a round of squats. Almost, but not quite.

The lowdown
Mewing

How’s your jawline?

Ugh, don’t remind me. It gets flabbier and droopier by the day. Yours is looking infuriatingly defined, though.

I know, I’ve transformed. Want to know my secret to a razor-sharp jawline?

Oh, go on then, you smug Susan.

I mew.

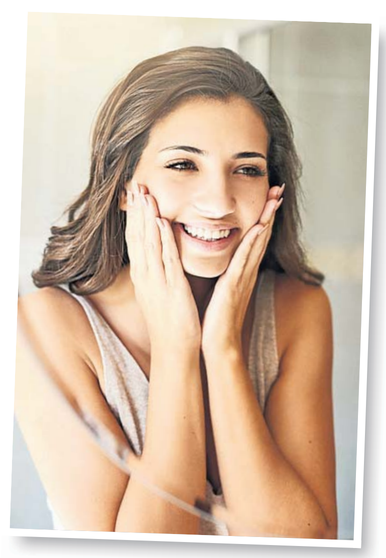
Come again, you what? Why are you making cat noises?

No, silly, not meowing. I’m talking about mewing.

What on earth is mewing?

Well, it’s a facial exercise that has gone viral on social media. Mewing has nearly two billion views on TikTok and people swear by it. They say it has tightened their jawlines, given them more facial definition and pronounced cheekbones.

I guess it beats forking out for all those endless creams and facials. Spill the beans, then — how does one do this magical quick fix to become beautiful?



You push your lips together, then move your tongue to the roof of your mouth and hold it there. It really is as simple as that. I’m doing it right now.

I’m not sure, it all sounds a bit too good to be true to me. Who came up with this?

An orthodontist called Dr Mike Mew. But all’s not well for him. He’s facing a misconduct hearing right now because he’s been accused of using unproven treatments.

I think I’ll just stick with my flabby face for now, thanks.

Suit yourself. If you need me, I’ll be over there mewing until my face looks as good as Angelina Jolie’s.

Georgina Roberts

COVER AND BELOW: CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES, MAKE-UP: FIONA MOORE, HAIR: LOUISE BAILEY EXTENSIONS; GETTY IMAGES; RAHEEM STERLING, SASHA ATTWOOD, MEGAN PICKFORD/INSTAGRAM

fashion

You're part of WAG culture — you just don't know it

Ever had your brows done or a blow-dry before a big event? Then the high-maintenance look that began in Baden-Baden has influenced your style as it has mine, says Harriet Walker



Harriet Walker with Beauty Club's Louise Bailey, left

Back then it was Posh Spice, Cheryl Cole and Coleen Rooney. This time, get ready for Sasha Atwood (26 and dating Jack Grealish), Megan Pickford (the wife of Jordan, also 26) and Fern Hawkins (Mrs Harry Maguire, aged 28). It wouldn't be a World Cup without the WAGs.

For some, the quiet German spa town of Baden-Baden is known as "God's waiting room", famously one of Queen Victoria's preferred holiday spots. For women of my generation, however, it will for ever be associated with another monarch of the same name: HM Victoria Beckham, queen bee of England's 2006 squad WAGs.

She and the other Three Lions maenads clattered through its cobbled streets in Jimmy Choo platforms and Roberto Cavalli denim like a Boots advert on cocaine, reportedly drinking bottles of Veuve Clicquot through straws and spending £57,000 in an hour. Tans, teeth, tits and tumbling hair extensions: a new breed of glam was minted in Baden-Baden. Almost 20 years on, it is official currency even among women not romantically linked to the beautiful game.

It's a look as familiar on newsreaders as from the recent "Wagatha Christie" trial between Rooney and Rebekah Vardy. Ever had your brows done? A blow-dry for a big meeting or night out? Do you book in to have your eyelashes lifted, dyed or extended, or for regular manicures? If the answer is yes, you are a part of WAG culture, whether you identified with the Baden-Baden babes or not.

Back then, procedures such as hair extensions, acrylic nails and whitened teeth were purely for celebrities and those who hoped to become one. Fake tan was something you applied in your own bathroom, hoping for the best. In the early Noughties, *The X Factor* used to whisk its pasty and wonky-toothed British winners away for a chart-topping LA overhaul, because achieving the ultra-glam look favoured by the original WAGs simply wasn't that easy in the UK.

These days, it is par for the course. The thin end of the wedge, even. Eyelash extensions, lip fillers, Botox and brow treatments are among some of the most popular on the menu, no longer reserved for VIPs beyond the velvet rope but probably sitting next to you on the commute. According to the Guild of Professional Beauty Therapists, lash treatments are second to nails as the most popular bookings in salons, while brow procedures are among the most applied-for training courses among beauticians, overtaking massages in recent years. Lashes and brows have become as habitual to many women as leg waxes are, extensions as common as highlights.

"It used to be only celebrities I saw once a month," agrees Jason Potter, a colour guru at Hershesons' Belgravia salon. "But my clients want the same sort of high-maintenance manes as the famous women they follow."



Kyle Walker and his wife, Annie Kilner

The present crop of WAGs embody this sort of glossy girl-next-door look, whether they are Insta-models and influencers — such as 24-year-old Anna Modler (who is dating Eric Dier) and Atwood — or, as Megan Pickford's social media profile proclaims, "mama, wife and friend". Raheem Sterling's fiancée, 27-year-old Paige Milian, runs a property business, while Anouska Santos (30 and girlfriend of Luke Shaw) has launched a range of gummy bear jewellery named Treats Studios. Aaron Ramsdale's girlfriend Georgina Irwin, 26, is a member of BA's cabin crew — so, let's remember, was our future king's remaining grandmother.

As the Qatar World Cup kicks off this week, the focus once again will be on the England squad's other halves — a quieter bunch this time round, and confined to a £1 billion cruise ship off Doha with Swarovski crystal-embellished interiors, a snow room and an indoor slide. That's as much for their own good as their partners' — the scrutiny of the WAGs in Germany was laced with the usual venom reserved for women having a suspiciously good time (and this year's host country isn't known for its leniency either). Despite that, I remember them being the most glamorous thing I'd ever seen. Apparently Beckham packed 30 pairs of sunglasses for the trip.

These days, I am a fashion editor and the jury is out on whether the WAG look is compatible with haute couture. Beckham, now with her own catwalk brand, has certainly left it behind, and the front row has long been snooty about this predominantly northern gang of girls-made-good. There was moral outrage at the suggestion of Coleen Rooney in *Vogue* in 2005 but, by the time the cool London designer Giles Deacon created Abbey Clancy's wedding dress in 2011, magazine mavens grudgingly accepted that the WAGs' high-impact sense of style counted as proper fashion. During Vardy and Rooney's libel trial, the outfits — the former's £1,600 Alessandra Rich dress versus the latter's £32.99 Zara version — were as much a part of proceedings as the legal ones.

Besides, fashion types are all at it these days too: nails, blow-dries, Botox, you name it — even the ones who only wear black things made in Paris. When I had hair extensions ten years ago, I kept shtoom about them yet hairdressers are applying more than ever before. The modern version is more subtle than the original WAG tresses, used for thickness rather than length — even the Princess of Wales has them.

"Extensions have gone from high-octane glamour to an everyday addition," says Louise Bailey, founder of Hair Extensions London and Beauty Club London. "Tape extensions can hide damage and give thinner hair an immediate boost."

This "boost" is central to the glossy WAG look. The first wave of this tabloid-friendly tribe realised what it took us amateur poseurs another two





Georgina Irwin, Aaron Ramsdale's fiancée



Harry Kane and his wife, Katie Goodland



Sasha Attwood with Jack Grealish



Megan Pickford, wife of Jordan Pickford



Raheem Sterling and his fiancée, Paige Milian

Top left and cover, left: top, £350, Mugler at flannels.com; jeans, £309, motherdenim.com; bag, Louis Vuitton, £79 per month, rented from cocoon.club; shoes, £650, eu.christianlouboutin.com. Cover, right: dress, £228, reiss.com; shoes, £950, jimmychoo.com; earrings, £15.99, zara.com; bag, £400, ByFar at flannels.com

decades to — that if you're having your photo taken regularly, you have to make the most of what you've got. In its extra hair, face-framing brows, contoured make-up, white teeth and perfectly almond-shaped lacquered nails, the WAG look was simply an ur-selfie look: a beauty routine the rest of us have picked up in response to the high-definition cameras that nestle in every pocket.

Those cameras are increasingly vital to becoming a WAG too. Whereas it used to be a matter of hanging out fully dolled up in the right bars in Liverpool, one football insider tells me that most players now "meet" their girlfriends by scoping out attractive women on Instagram and then "sliding into their DMs", though some, including Fern Hawkins — now Maguire — are the childhood sweethearts of old.

Despite this new VAR style of dating, Liverpool remains something of a WAG epicentre. Coleen et al were famous for their Cricket bags, and the boutique still thrives. Yet such is the demand that the department store Flannels opened its flagship there this summer, a seven-floor souk of slap and selfie-tastic looks, with Barry's Bootcamp exercise hall in the basement, beauty tweakments on tap and — rumour has it — a private helicopter on standby for VIP clients from the leafy Cheshire environs.

Thanks to social media, those very tweakments are no longer something to keep secret. A 2019 survey found that 60 per cent of 13 to 24-year-olds saw lip fillers as comparable to a haircut. The 2006 "trout pout" is now the cuter sounding "lip flip" — and the legal age for them was only last year set at 18. As with this cohort's beloved vapes, nobody quite knows yet how things will turn out in the long run.

Despite the political backdrop to Qatar, it's unlikely there will be any frown lines in WAG HQ this time, and that isn't just thanks to all the Botox. Going by the regular exchange of heart-eye emojis and kisses beneath each other's Instagram posts, those aboard HMS WAG can expect smoother sailing than the Baden-Baden backlash. Just remember to keep an eye on their Instagram stories — Rebekah Vardy certainly will be.

Twitter: @harrywalker1

How Meghan broke my heart with three words

With the latest instalment of her podcast, the Duchess of Sussex triggers Hilary Rose

And so we stagger towards what I hoped and believed would be the finish line of Meghan's podcast journey. My spirits are low as I contemplate the coming 1 hour, 4 minutes and 53 seconds, but to be fair that could just be the rain.

The die was cast with the podcast's name, *Archetypes*, which doesn't mean what she thinks it does, which is stereotypes, but this is Meghan's truth and word meanings, like recollections, may vary. Either way, we are promised a "thought-provoking and energising" episode about "why activism in women is often deemed audacious". I don't think she means audacious, I think she means presumptuous, but this is Meghan's safe space, where audacious can mean whatever she wants it to mean, because that is how language works.

"If you don't stand for something, don't fall for anything," is our opening gambit, and I am positive I would find that energising and thought-provoking if I knew what it meant. However, I am striving to be a better person, so let us assume that the problem is me. The layers of my dimensionality may not be thriving, and may even be withering. Sometimes I wonder if I have any dimensionality at all. Again, it could be the rain.

We move on to the ways in which we serve up our activism, and to a woman who is "literally layering in activism at its finest". This segues seamlessly into a discussion about the role of hiding vegetables in humanising policy, which has bothered me for years, and Meghan says that her children love vegetables, because of course they do, perfection is clearly genetic. Before you know it we're back to manifesting and Meghan says "Wow".

"I want to take a detour back into history," she says, and if my audacious manifestation was in better nick, I'd admit that this sentence is triggering for me. Meghan has found, to her surprise, that "women have been the force behind revolution and changes for generation", and maybe we're going to talk about Boudica, or the Dagenham women's strike, I think, but then again maybe not.

Time moves on, slowly. Meghan is congratulated on her love for humanity, and she says thank you and talks about the importance of not turtling and I sit up. She has mentioned turtling before, and I thought I must be dreaming, but no: it means going back into the safety of your shell, which sounds like a terrific idea to me, but is apparently bad. Besides, we have 38 minutes yet to explore injustices in society, so stay tuned.

Meghan says that, a few days before she got married, a "very influential and inspiring woman" told her, "Please don't give up your activism, because it means so much for women and girls," and a million pounds says it wasn't Princess Anne.

It's possible that she doesn't name



the person because the last time she got too specific it turned out she'd never met the man (the South African *Lion King* cast member who "told" her that the day she got married they'd celebrated in the streets just like they had when Mandela was released).

When the noise from Montecito got too much, I scrolled idly through the

> **I am processing feelings that might be rage or depression**

Archetypes website, and I never thought I'd say this, but I felt SEEN.

"If an *Archetypes* podcast brought up a feeling that you're processing, now would be a great time to ask for help," it reads.

"I am processing feelings that I think might be rage or depression, but definitely confusion," I tell my editor. "Meghan has spoken for more than an hour, and it was in English, but I didn't understand a word. Help."

"Don't worry," she reassures me. "It's your dimensionality. You haven't got any."

And then Meghan breaks my heart with three short words. "Until next week…"

There's more. It isn't over. They promised me this was the last. My editor shrugs. "Recollections may vary."



£179.99; mango.com



£189; mintvelvet.co.uk



Maria Rosaria Rizzo



Mandy Bork



Marlies Pia Pfeifhofer

Rain, rain come again: we have

We're in for a soggy few days — but you can still look chic in a downpour, says Charlie Gowans-Eglinton

As I type, whiffs of wet sheep are rising from my knitted jacket, so I am particularly invested in finding stylish wardrobe solutions for the soggiest of days (of which there are many ahead). What I will not be suggesting are the clingfilm-ish pac-a-macs that I spotted on two tourists as I walked across London Bridge. Those are an *absolutely not* from me, partly because the hood will blow off unless you hold it in place, but if you do, water will run down your sleeves, and partly because you will look a little as if you are wearing an XL Trojan Magnum condom, at least until you steam up like a greenhouse. On a scale from chic to log flume, I want something that I can wear to the office and the pub, on a big wet walk and round an art gallery — and definitely something that won't make me smell like soggy ewe after every flash shower. Here are my findings.

Glamoraks

Christian Dior's is £2,900, which should communicate quite how glam and high fashion the humble anorak can go these days. I was particularly taken with one from the latest collaboration between Alexa Chung and Barbour, not least because it costs a tenth of that; it's oversized with a lace-up neckline and giant front sandwich pocket (thus repurposed because I don't need a map in town), and comes in russet brown and navy (£211, yoox.com) or pea-souper green (£340.35, atterley.com). Ganni's cool cagoule is tie-dyed pale pink and white and made with recycled polyester, and Rotate Birger Christensen's is trapeze-shaped and comes in this season's colour, *very* bright pink (£275 and £290 respectively, net-a-porter.com). Layer over narrow or cropped trousers to avoid sopping up puddles — and steer clear of jeans, which take an age to dry and are uncomfortable as they do so.

Gore-core

At the other end of the style spectrum is the all-terrain jacket, something a fashion-avoidant dad might wear on a camping holiday. Cargo trousers and high-tech trainers are the height of fashion, so it only follows that you'll find fashion editors combing the rails at Mountain Warehouse for their

> "You're either an umbrella person or not; I am very much not

rainproofing. Something in Gore-Tex, with a lot of pockets and perhaps some clever little toggles… fashion editor Harriet Walker recommends her Swirlhow jacket, the real deal from hiking brand Berghaus (£160, berghaus.com).

It helps that brands like these use the latest fabrics and technology to make sure their kit will withstand the elements, so these are guaranteed to keep you dry — which should be a given among waterproofs, but somehow isn't. You'll also stay bone dry in anything by the Scandinavian brands Rains, Stutterheim or Ilse Jacobsen, which all take weatherproofing seriously. Jacobsen's brightly tinted transparent raincoats will show off the outfit underneath a wash of sunbeam yellow or seafoam blue (£135, ilsejacobsen.co.uk), and Stutterheim's high-gloss black would be my pick over partywear (€165, stutterheim.com). Whistles stocks a great range of Rains waterproof jackets, hats and bags (crucial if you're

GETTY IMAGES



Gitta Banko



£139; hush-uk.com

£290; essentiel-antwerp.com

the style solution

commuting with your laptop) from £25; I love the citrusy orange jacket (£79, whistles.com).

Posh parkas

The khaki parka is a classic, but the latest iterations are particularly good — see Jigsaw's limited-edition Arden, with lots of volume in the sleeves (£285, jigsaw-online.com) and Hush's sleek, trench-like Meyer (£139, hush-uk.com). I also love Essentiel Antwerp's pillar-box red, oversized and cut slightly longer at the back, and with extra padding in the hood (£290, essentiel-antwerp.com). Barbour has collaborated with London Fashion Week designer Roksanda Ilincic, who is known for her colour combinations — my pick is navy with supersized front pockets and removable burgundy sleeves (£499, barbourinternational.com)

Bally-nice-clavas

You're either an umbrella person or not; I am very much not, and hate walking around with one arm held aloft and braced against the wind. I managed to stay pretty much dry and frizz-free in a cable-knit cashmere beanie by Aethel yesterday morning (£75, aethel.com), but really it deserves better treatment, so I'll be saving it for cold but dry days, and trying out a padded balaclava/hood hybrid instead.

Cos has a navy mock collar with a hood that tucks under the neckline of your coat, so it will look as though you have a hooded puffer jacket layered underneath, but without adding the bulk of one (£59, cos.com). The North Face's is sportier looking, with a bungee cord drawstring for driving winds (£45, ssense.com). Or there's new brand L'Hood, a specialist name offering rain hoods in a variety of shapes and colours that fold down into small wrist cuffs when not in use (from £34.99, l-hood.com); another of my colleagues arrived in hers yesterday morning, before letting us all have a try-on.



£375; stutterheim.com

Instagram: @charliegowans

How ballet shoes went from dull to cool again

CANDICE LAKE



Kate Reardon

Anyone else remember *Ballet Shoes* by Noel Streatfeild? Set in the 1930s, the book was an important feature of my early life. It's the story of three orphaned girls, discovered by a benevolent (if oddball) elderly palaeontologist on his travels. The girls, Pauline, Petrova and Posy, are sent back to London to be raised by his niece, an old nanny and various boarders, taken in to make ends meet. Trials, tribulations and ballet lessons ensue.

I was born at a time when curtsying to my teacher every afternoon on being dismissed from school was the norm. I also had weekly ballet lessons with the fearsome Madame Vacani. My love of ballet, at which I was more doggedly enthusiastic than visibly talented, came from a melodramatic urge to imitate Pauline, Posy or Petrova.

The only remaining vestige of my early passion is a devotion to ballet flats. They've veered wildly in and out of fashion, such as pinging between Sloane Ranger sensible in the Eighties and Kate Moss cool in the Nineties, but always with an enduringly aspirational Chanel, cap-toe undercurrent. Conveniently, they've recently made a speed-of-light transition from dull to "check out these Celine puppies", initiated by the intimidatingly cool Hedi Slimane.

It's weird when a trend genuinely works for every age. No fashion hyperbole here — my 80-year-old mother looks as good in them as the bodacious 24-year-old influencer and ballet flat fan, Matilda Djerf (she of just the 2.8 million Instagram followers). They're absurdly functional; they sass up a pair of jeans, they're perfect for November when summer clothes would make you look mad. With ballet flats there's no awkward transition between commuting shoes and work shoes. And they're more comfortable than anything else bar sneakers, which aren't always appropriate if you want to be taken really seriously, much though fashion people might pretend otherwise.

Don't miss Times Luxury
thetimes.co.uk/luxury



£950; miumiu.com



£625; manoloblahnik.com



£45.99; zara.com



£169; Penelope Chilvers x India Hicks at penelopechilvers.com



£650; armani.com



£140; everlane.com



£225; aeyde.com



£189; pretty ballerinas.co.uk



£730; chanel.com

arts



DAVID M BENETT, NBC UNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES



Petula Clark: I'm still on stage at 90

The British musical legend is still performing in the West End eight times a week and eight decades into an extraordinary career. Will Hodgkinson meets her

Petula Clark's dressing room at the Prince Edward Theatre in the West End of London, where she is singing *Feed the Birds* eight times a week as the Bird Woman in Cameron Mackintosh's production of *Mary Poppins*, is festooned with flowers. She must be going down a storm, I think, until I remember that it is her birthday. "And that's the last time we'll mention it!" Clark says. She doesn't like birthdays.

Sitting upright on a little sofa at the back of her dressing room, a slight figure with a blue jumper, white trainers and a shock of blonde curls, Clark doesn't look or act like she has just turned 90. She puts her energy down to spending her life doing something she enjoys. "I feel privileged to be doing something that I do fairly well… fairly well. I like the challenge."

Clark has lived in Geneva for the past 45 years but spends much of the year abroad. "There are times when I've had enough, but that only lasts a couple of days. Sometimes, let's face it, on a long run you might think, 'Feed the bloody Birds again?' Then you get down to the theatre and it's the atmosphere backstage, the people who work there, you are part of something. It's not just you."

You wonder if she still gets nervous. "It's a kind of nerves. Then I have a quick word with someone [ie God] and say, 'Just get me through this.' With a concert it is totally different. That's me alone and I'm able to let go and express myself, which I can't really do here. I am the Bird Lady, doing her Bird Lady thing."

One of the reasons Clark has endured is her ability to inhabit the songs she sings, and so it is with *Feed the Birds*. "She has fallen on hard times," she says of a character the story tells us nothing about. "I tried to figure out where she lived, a little hut on the edge of the woods, maybe, with creatures and birdies around her. And I think she works for Mary in some way, because she is certainly magical. I sort of made all this up. And it sort of works."

There is no one else in the West End who has been singing, acting, recording and entertaining audiences from the ages of nine to ninety. Alongside her fellow child star Julie Andrews, Clark was singing to the troops through the Second World War, sleeping in luggage racks as they travelled the country by train.

"Actually I started earlier than nine," she points out. "I was singing in chapel in Wales when I was six. My first public performance was in front of a congregation, and even then I thought, 'Ooh, that's nice. I like singing, they like listening.' And that's the only reason I do it, actually. Fame and all that, I don't even notice it."

Unlike so many child stars, Clark never went off the rails. "I've had my moments!" she corrects, but her story hardly compares to that of, say, Judy Garland, dead at 47 from a barbiturate overdose. "Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney were Hollywood. It was different here, far more ramshackle. We didn't have a school room for the showbiz kids, and I didn't care because I didn't want to go to school anyway. I wasn't bad at literature and geography, but arithmetic? I still haven't learnt it."

In her teenage years Clark was contracted to the Rank Organisation to make films that were, in her words, "kind of awful". In the minds of British audiences she was the country's answer to Shirley Temple, so much so that she was told to tie a band around her breasts to keep on playing child roles. A phone call from Paris in 1957 offered a way out. "I was informed that there was a girl who was imitating me, so I had to come out there and do a performance at the Olympia," she remembers. "I had a terrible cold, they took me to a doctor who looked like Napoleon, and I thought, 'My God, what have I got into?' He gave me something called *un suppositoire*. 'What do I do with this?' 'Put eet up ze bottom.' It worked!"

The Olympia concert was such a success that a huge career in France followed, with Clark spending the late Fifties and early Sixties working with giants of chanson such as the film composer Michel Legrand ("not an easy man — hated the Beatles") and Serge Gainsbourg ("charming and very funny"). On her second day in Paris she went to Vogue Records and met Claude Wolff, who started out as her PR and two years later became her husband — and still is, 61 years and three children later.

Petula Clark in the 1960s and, right, as the Bird Woman in Mary Poppins

> **Sometimes you might think, 'Feed the bloody Birds again?'**

Mary Poppins is at the Prince Edward Theatre, London W1, to January 8

"Very attractive man," she says of Wolff. "Good-looking, good at his job, knew everybody and drove like a maniac, which was impressive to me. And he was Parisian, of course. There was something going on in Paris that I could feel, and the audiences loved me. They loved me for who I was — not for the little girl I used to be. It was a new life."

Clark will always be associated with *Downtown*, the 1964 No 1 that Tony Hatch wrote for her. "*Downtown* was the first of a line of songs Tony wrote for me, and they're like my children," she says. "I like to be creative, because I don't think singing is about standing there and getting the notes out. I have been criticised for this. 'Why doesn't she just sing the song?' I can't do that. Something happens inside me and it affects the way I sing."

There have been plenty of celebrity encounters along the way. Alongside singing on John Lennon's *Give Peace a Chance* after stumbling into John and Yoko's bed-in at the Queen Elizabeth hotel in Montreal in 1969, and causing a media storm in 1968 when she took Harry Belafonte's arm during an NBC television special and inadvertently became a heroine of the American civil rights movement, she discovered the Carpenters. In 1969 the brother-sister duo were performing at the LA party for *Goodbye Mr Chips* and she convinced Herb Alpert of A&M Records to sign them on the spot.

"Karen was playing drums and I thought, 'Wow, she can really sing.' Did I discover them? I certainly recognised something, a certain sadness in Karen's voice, and Richard has never found anybody to replace her. I recorded with Richard and he's a hard person to work for, so I can only imagine that he was tough with her." Clark had to be tough herself with Elvis Presley, who suggested a threesome with her and Karen Carpenter when they visited his dressing room after a concert. "Totally true. It was a delicious evening, actually."

Throughout it all she never stopped working. "I say no more than I say yes. I did not want to do *The Sound of Music* because that's Julie Andrews's," she says of the West End production she finally took the lead in from 1981.

Curtain up beckons. Before she goes, I ask Clark if she has any unfulfilled ambitions. "I have never been ambitious. After this I'll be going home to Geneva to be with my husband. He's been having health problems. But unfulfilled ambitions? Good God no."

At the end of the evening's performance of *Mary Poppins* a cake is brought on to the stage, the company sings *Happy Birthday*, and there are five standing ovations. Petula Clark may not like birthdays, but it's not a bad way to celebrate her 90th.

Got condoms? Sex and the over-65s

With STIs on the rise for baby boomers, sexually liberated OAPs need to take precautions. I do, says Elaine Kingett

I bought my first condoms in 2003, at the age of 53. After my husband's death, it had taken three years to pluck up the courage to go into the big Boots and stare at the vast assortment of brands, sizes and flavours. When I was younger it was always the men who bought them and tied the knot afterwards. Since the age of 17 my life had been the pill, withdrawal and, after the birth of our third child, sterilisation.

Always a fan of heritage brands, I chose Durex.

"Two for the price of one at the moment," said the bored young guy at the till.

"I don't think I'm going to be that busy," I blurted out.

I'd managed to wing it for a couple of years, relying not always successfully on the guy to produce the appropriate accessory at the correct lull in the proceedings. It seems others must be winging it too. The latest official figures show that sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are on the rise among the over-65s, with new diagnoses up from 2,280 in 2017 to 2,748 in 2019. Doctors have linked this to people finding new partners after a divorce or bereavement, and some not using condoms because of the low risk of pregnancy.

A visit to the Claude Nicol Sexual Health Centre in Brighton, where one went to get tested for all manner of STIs, HIV and for contraception advice, was an education for me. Claude Nicol — the name struck fear into my heart and many of my younger friends before any of us had even visited. I imagined a Dickensian scene full of down-and-outs covered in weeping pustules, and a team of white-coated medics ready to administer a sermon on the waywardness and decadence of our wicked ways. SHAC East, as Claude Nicol is now delightfully entitled, was a revelation. Bright, friendly, nonjudgmental and efficient — and where, in the waiting room, I wasn't the oldest shagger in town. There were smiling couples with a toddler in a buggy, singles, two neat-and-tidy schoolgirls nervously giggling. All my life I had viewed the clap clinic as somewhere others less fortunate, more ignorant than me, had ended up, a place to be ashamed of mentioning in polite society. And therein lies the problem to this day.

We feel we can pass judgment on celebrities' sex lives and rant on about *Love Island* till the cows come home, but even admitting to enjoying sex ourselves, let alone wanting it when we're past 50, seems like social suicide. As for casual sex with "friends with benefits" or "hook-ups" on dating apps, heaven forbid you should admit to any of that malarkey when you are drawing your OAP. You deserve all the itchy-scratchy infections you get, madam.

Even nigh on 20 years ago I was well aware that my peers were woefully ignorant about the likelihood and dangers of contracting an STI from unprotected sex. Precautions such as condoms, they believed, were just for silly young people who slept around and for women who could still get pregnant.

When I'd asked a new 50-plus partner if he'd "been checked out" before we had unprotected sex, he looked aghast.

"Certainly not! Who do you think I am? My last girlfriend told me she was clean." My response that I, out of a sense of sexual responsibility, had been to a clinic was met with a look of utter disgust.

In Brighton I had taken it upon myself to educate and reassure my young friends on the need to "get checked out" to protect oneself and future liaisons when changing partners. When my kids were teenagers I would put out a basket of condoms in the bathroom for them to help themselves. They're expensive to buy even now, £6.50 for six in Sainsbury's. Some kids are still too embarrassed to buy them and the attitude lingers that a woman carrying condoms is somehow slutty. Single friends of my own age group and those less faithful to their marital status were harder to convince about the risks involved. Some, offended when I suggested they carry condoms, would reply something like, "Oh, I know Tony, he's an old friend."

Even old friends get syphilis.

And not all STIs have itchy-scratchy symptoms. Hello chlamydia and the new antibiotic-resistant kid on the block, mycoplasma genitalium, or MG. Not that MG, grandad. And young people in their thirties sleep with older people in their sixties, who sleep with people in their own age group and, whoopee, we've all got gonorrhoea.

And if it is the case that older people are having more sex nowadays, maybe sexually liberated boomers are more willing to extol its entertainment and health benefits? At any age we should recognise both the emotional and physical risks involved. Falling in love is even harder to protect yourself against…

> **Heaven forbid you should admit to having 'friends with benefits'**

KATIE WILSON FOR THE TIMES





EIGHT DAYS FROM
£1,649
PER PERSON

Guided tours of Rouen and Paris
Visit to Claude Monet's house and beautiful garden
Explore Vernon
Stop in Les Andelys
Visit to delightful Honfleur
Return flight or standard class seat on Eurostar from London St Pancras International
Seven nights on board in your choice of luxury cabin, all with river view

From Paris we slip our moorings and commence our wonderfully scenic cruise along the beautiful and majestic Seine into the heart of one of France's most historic and picturesque regions, Normandy. Catch the remarkable sights that line the beautiful Seine, with visits to Honfleur, Richard the Lionheart's imposing castle and a charming, ancient fishing port.

Selected departures April to October 2023

With us, you're covered
- Fully flexible booking*
- Which? Recommended Provider for 10 years
- Unbeatable value, protected by our Price Promise

RIVIERA TRAVEL
Recommended Provider Which? River Cruises January 2022
Call now to book, quoting KR850
0808 115 3229 thetimes.co.uk/riviera-rcp
TIMES Travel Offers

Prices based on two people sharing a twin cabin. Single cabins available at a supplement. Additional entrance costs may apply. Travel insurance is not included but is strongly recommended. This holiday is operated by and subject to booking conditions of Riviera Travel, ABTA V4744 ATOL 3430 protected, a company independent of News UK. Subject to availability. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. For further information please write to Riviera Travel, New Manor, 328 Wetmore Road, Burton upon Trent, Staffs, DE14 1SP quoting The Times. KR850. *Free 2023 booking amendments until balance due date. Book by December 31, 2022. See website for full details.
ABTA ABTA No. V4744

Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai difficult

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

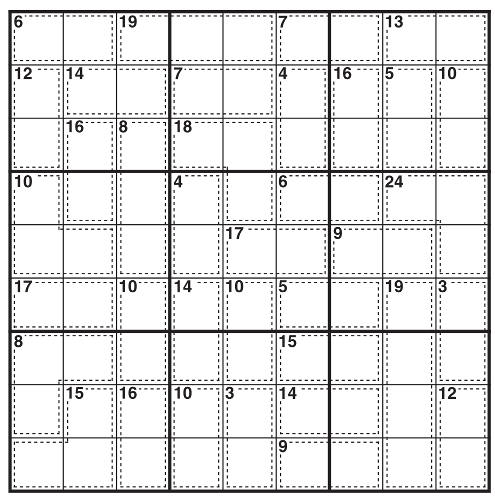
		3		9									9		4	6				
	8		5			4		3				6	7		1	3				8
9				4	7		2													7
	3		9					4				1		9						
	6		2	3				1				3	2	7				4	8	
	7	9		6	1		3								8					
			7	8								7				8	1			2
				2				9	7						3				1	
		8				3									6		2		3	4
										4	6			2						
										7										
						4			5	1										
4	5		1		8									4				8		
	1				2						1	8				6				
6			5	3				1								1	9			
					6								1		7	4		2	5	
	7	3				5	1	6				5				9	8		4	
						2		9				4					1		3	
8													3		1	7				6
5				7	3		8	2				7		8			3		9	
				2	1		9									8		3		

Sudoku easy

		7						3
9			6				1	2
4				2	3			
1			8				2	7
	2				7	8		
8			2				9	4
5				9	8			
3			7				5	6
		2						9

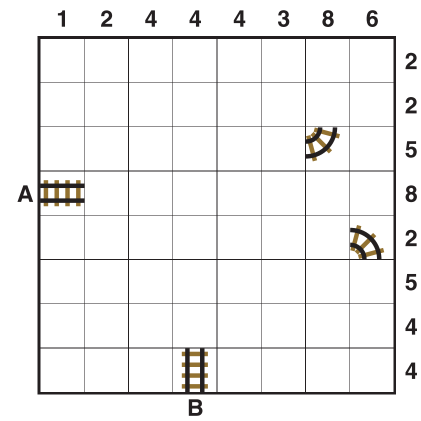
Killer gentle

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. The track cannot cross itself.



Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

```
[ ] < [ ]   [ ]   [2]   [ ]

[ ]   [ ]   [ ]   [ ]   [ ]
             v           v
[ ]   [ ]   [4]   [ ]   [ ]

[ ] > [ ]   [ ]   [ ] > [ ]

[1]   [ ] < [ ]   [ ] > [ ]
```

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.

17	■	5 S	■	21	■	7	■	3	■	24	■	20
8	4	3	9	7	12	3	1	9	■	10	13	22
7	■	7	■	12	■	1	■	24	■	22	■	13
23	13	25	5	19	13 I	10	■	8	4	13	5	3
1	■	■	■	20	■	8	■	■	■	19	■	18
10	24	20	■	1	9	6	7	13	10	8	6	■
■	■	22	■	1	■	■	■	5	■	22	■	■
■	11	13	9	3	24	1	5	1	■	14	8	5
8	■	18	■	■	■	26	■	22	■	■	■	15
6	1	18	8	10	■	26	8	7	3 T	15	8	9
13	■	7	■	24	■	8	■	3	■	7	■	13
12	7	9	■	2	7	10	10	8	16	24	13	10
3	■	6	■	20	■	6	■	6	■	22	■	8

A B C D E F G H ~~I~~ J K L M N O P Q R ~~S~~ ~~T~~ U V W X Y Z

1	2	3 T	4	5 S	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13 I
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Make recovery in March (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Committee fed up, by all accounts (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Speculation about Pole being a composer (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Rise of a comedian (5,2)

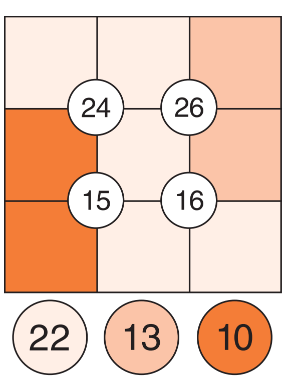
_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Look down on obscure old painters (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	B	D	D
E	E	G	I	L	L	N	N
N	O	O	P	P	R	R	R
R	S	S	T	T	U	W	Y

Suko



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Yesterday's solutions

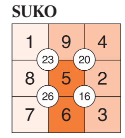
SAMURAI

2	1	5	7	8	6	9	3	4				9	3	6	4	5	1	7	8	2
7	4	9	2	1	3	6	8	5				2	4	7	3	9	8	6	1	5
6	8	3	9	4	5	1	2	7				5	8	1	2	7	6	4	9	3
9	3	8	1	5	4	7	6	2				1	7	2	5	6	3	9	4	8
5	6	2	3	7	8	4	1	9				3	9	4	7	8	2	5	6	1
4	7	1	6	2	9	8	5	3				8	6	5	1	4	9	3	2	7
3	9	7	8	6	2	5	4	1	3	7	8	6	2	9	8	3	5	1	7	4
1	5	6	4	3	7	2	9	8	4	5	6	7	1	3	6	2	4	8	5	9
8	2	4	5	9	1	3	7	6	1	9	2	4	5	8	9	1	7	2	3	6
						9	5	2	6	8	3	1	4	7						
						4	1	7	5	2	9	8	3	6						
						8	6	3	7	1	4	5	9	2						
2	6	7	5	4	8	1	3	9	8	4	7	2	6	5	9	1	8	4	7	3
5	8	3	1	9	6	7	2	4	9	6	5	3	8	1	5	7	4	2	6	9
1	9	4	2	3	7	6	8	5	2	3	1	9	7	4	3	2	6	5	8	1
4	3	6	7	5	9	2	1	8				5	3	2	8	6	7	1	9	4
8	1	9	3	6	2	4	5	7				4	9	8	2	3	1	6	5	7
7	5	2	8	1	4	9	6	3				7	1	6	4	5	9	3	2	8
6	7	1	4	8	5	3	9	2				1	4	7	6	9	2	8	3	5
3	2	8	9	7	1	5	4	6				6	5	9	1	8	3	7	4	2
9	4	5	6	2	3	8	7	1				8	2	3	7	4	5	9	1	6

QUINTAGRAM

1 Orc
2 Ease
3 Haiku
4 Main course
5 Serenading

SUKO



FUTOSHIKI

```
[2]   [1]   [5] > [4] > [3]

[5]   [4]   [1]   [3] > [2]

[4]   [2]   [3] < [5]   [1]

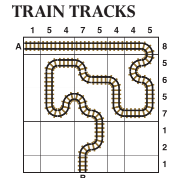
[1] < [3] < [4]   [2]   [5]

[3] < [5]   [2]   [1]   [4]
```

CODEWORD

Z	■	R	■	T	■	V	■	E	■	S	■	G
O	P	E	R	A	■	U	S	U	R	P	E	R
D	■	J	■	X	■	L	■	P	■	I	■	A
I	R	O	N	I	N	G	■	H	A	T	E	D
A	■	I	■	■	■	A	■	O	■	■	■	E
C	O	N	Q	U	E	R	O	R	■	C	O	D
■	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	I	■	O	■	■
G	A	D	■	E	X	P	L	A	I	N	E	D
U	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	■	■	V	■	I
F	L	O	W	N	■	B	U	D	D	I	N	G
F	■	N	■	A	■	B	■	A	■	N	■	G
A	B	Y	S	M	A	L	■	N	I	C	H	E
W	■	X	■	E	■	Y	■	K	■	E	■	R

TRAIN TRACKS



SUDOKU

1	3	7	2	4	9	5	6	8
4	9	6	5	8	1	7	2	3
8	2	5	7	6	3	4	9	1
2	5	8	3	1	6	9	7	4
6	4	1	9	7	2	3	8	5
9	7	3	8	5	4	2	1	6
3	1	9	6	2	5	8	4	7
5	8	4	1	9	7	6	3	2
7	6	2	4	3	8	1	5	9

KILLER

2	4	5	6	1	9	8	7	3
6	8	9	3	5	7	2	1	4
7	3	1	4	8	2	5	9	6
9	1	2	8	3	5	4	6	7
8	7	4	2	9	6	1	3	5
5	6	3	7	4	1	9	2	8
1	2	7	5	6	4	3	8	9
4	9	8	1	7	3	6	5	2
3	5	6	9	2	8	7	4	1

Television's action man bares his vulnerable side

James Jackson TV review



Louis Theroux Interviews…
BBC2
★★★★☆

Being a man known for eating raw goat's testicles, rat's brains, bulging grubs etc, what food could possibly make Bear Grylls turn his nose up? Lentils. "Terrible. *Terrible*," he murmured with a grimace of infinite distaste when Louis Theroux suggested the idea of them. They make him break wind, the adventurer extraordinaire explained.

Grylls hasn't broken wind for years. Not since he quit veganism and embraced a daily diet of steak, liver and eggs. "Is breaking wind so bad?" the baffled one asked during *Louis Theroux Interviews*… "I don't think breaking wind is a good thing, no," Grylls declared, doubling down. "I think it's a sign your gut isn't very happy."

There was quite a lot of this kind of amused back-and-forth as Theroux went off-grid to meet Grylls at the rustic home he shares with his wife, Shara, and kids. Does the survivalist reside on a remote windswept island with no running water? Does Bear you-know-what in the woods?

Such a rugged home feels fitting for "TV's international survival superstar". These are Theroux's words; Grylls speaks his own language, one in which even the most quotidian thing is framed as a motivational life lesson — "I don't call it an alarm clock, I call it an opportunity clock!"

He also does his pull-ups from a bar suspended within a clifftop crevasse. Is that a calculated show-off move? A lunatic addiction to adrenaline? It suddenly seemed overdue that this megabrand was prodded a bit harder — not by a wild animal in the jungle but by a far-seeing interviewer.

Theroux was very direct with his questioning, helped by the fact that Grylls felt a bit looser here than we're used to. Theroux asked him dead in the eye about TV fakery (something Grylls's shows were once accused of), and Grylls compliantly talked about his faith (he prays daily) and the death of his father, the Tory MP Michael Grylls, as well as sharing intimate reflections about his mother — "there were quite a few eccentricities and most of them super harmless and wonderful". Is it Theroux's steady gaze that elicits such admissions?

NEIL HARVEY/BBC



Bear Grylls opened up to Louis Theroux about faith and family

Either way, once again this series is proving that studios with audiences are no longer the best place for a searching TV interview. In fact, it was just before Grylls went on to a festival stage (at a later date) that he made his most striking admission: "If I'm honest, I feel I'm not as brave or as strong or as great as sometimes [I'm seen as]."

He ran on, the young crowd chanting, "We want Bear!", and it was a delight to see his messages about courage, kindness and never giving up being received so keenly. Yet that impostor-syndrome remark seemed an intriguing crack of contradiction.

I've sometimes wondered how much of Grylls's macho shtick was something that was amplified by TV producers and which he now has to live up to. What this likeable tête-à-tête with Theroux instead suggested was that, for all Grylls's tough-stuff credentials, there's an element of self-effacing Englishness under the surface.

Still, asked what motivates him, he said: "I don't want to decay. Nothing in nature stands still, it's either decaying or getting stronger. I approach life like that." It's fair to assume we'll see him dropping off helicopters and drinking camel gut fluids for some time yet.

Radio choice
Ben Dowell



The Compass
World Service, 8pm

With attention focused on historic colonialist injustices, some people believe that the economic expansionism of China imperialism by other means. In the third part of this series the BBC's South America correspondent Katy Watson examines the impact of the Belt and Road initiative of President Xi Jinping, *above*, on Jamaica. "Highway 2000" is just one of these projects, a 66km motorway connecting Kingston and Montego Bay funded by a $700 million loan and built by a Chinese contractor. What is "debt-trap diplomacy", this show asks, and why use Chinese labour for jobs Jamaicans might do?

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch
thetimes.co.uk/bulletins

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app
5.00am Anna Cunningham with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley. Political interviews and conversation **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. Jane and Fi's trademark entertaining style plus live discussion of the day's news **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends. Informed debate with leading figures **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay. Engaging evening conversation **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz
6.30am The Zoe Ball Breakfast Show. The *QI* Elves are back with the Why Workshop, answering listeners' questions **9.30** Ken Bruce. The historical novelist Philippa Gregory picks her Tracks of My Years, continuing with tunes by Carole King and Elton John **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Jo Whiley. A mix of new music and classic tracks with guests dropping in to the studio to chat **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. The DJ introduces a mix of R'n'B and soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg. A four-hour edition, following the Great Scott TreadMills Challenge **4.00am** Early Breakfast Show

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz
6.30am Breakfast
Petroc Trelawny presents the classical breakfast show, featuring listener requests
9.00 Essential Classics
A selection of music and features, including the Playlist reveal and Slow Moment
12.00 Composer of the Week: The Harlem Renaissance
Donald Macleod is joined by Wynton Marsalis as he discovers how the poetry of Langston Hughes inspired the music of the Harlem Renaissance, and became one of the defining voices of the renaissance. Langston Hughes (*Good Morning*; *Harlem*); Jelly Roll Morton (*Mamie's Blues*); King Oliver (*Dippermouth Blues*); Count Basie (*Good Morning Blues*); Langston Hughes (*Motto*; *Dead in There*; *Same in Blues*; *Comment on Curb*; *The Weary Blues*; *Boogie 1 AM*; *Could Be*; *Bad Luck Card*; *Bad Man*; *Consider Me*); and Margaret Bonds (*Minstrel Man*; *Dream Variation*; *I, Too*)
1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert
Joanna MacGregor performs piano music with a touch of jazz, from Samuel Barber to Chick Corea, Mary Lou Williams and William Grant Still, plus her own composition *For Nina Simone*. Presented by Hannah French. Barber (*Four Excursions*, Op.20); Corea (*Children's Songs* — extracts); Williams arr Joanna MacGregor (*Miss D.D.* (*Black Christ of the Andes*); *Aries* (*Zodiac Suite*); *Scorpio* (*Zodiac Suite*); *Ghost of Love*); Still (*Mystic Pool* (*Seven Traceries*), *Out of the Silence* (*Seven Traceries*); Macgregor (*For Nina Simone*)
2.00 Live Afternoon Concert
Live from MediaCityUK in Salford, violinist Rachel Podger joins the BBC Philharmonic for live performances of music by Vivaldi, JS Bach and Hasse. Presented by Ian Skelly. Vivaldi (Concerto for strings in C minor, RV 120); WF Bach (Sinfonia in F); JS Bach (Violin Concerto in E major BWV 1042); Hasse (Sinfonia in G minor Op 5 No 6; Fugue and Grave in G minor)
4.00 Live Choral Evensong
Live from Westminster Abbey. Introit: Prevent us, O Lord (Byrd). Responses: Rose Psalm 37. First Lesson: Zechariah 8 vv.1-13
5.00 In Tune
Katie Derham is joined by the Minerva Piano Trio and the pianist George Xiaoyuan Fu
7.00 In Tune Mixtape
An eclectic mix of music, featuring old favourites together with lesser-known gems
7.30 Radio 3 in Concert
Elena Schwarz conducts the BBC Philharmonic in Stravinsky, Brahms and Beethoven. Presented by Linton Stephens, from the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester. Stravinsky (Symphony in three movements); Brahms (Double Concerto); Beethoven (Symphony No.6 — Pastoral)
10.00 Free Thinking
Anne McElvoy and her guests discuss the arguments and themes explored in the plays of George Bernard Shaw, and the resonance his work has to this day
10.45 Between the Ears: Miniatures
Five audio-makers from around the world are invited to choose a card from the tarot deck as a creative prompt for their idea. This episode features a piece by Nyokabi Kariuki, *Feeling Body*, which reflects on the physical and psychological experiences during and after an extended period of illness
11.00 Night Tracks An immersive soundtrack for late-night listening, from classical to contemporary and everything in between. With Sara Mohr-Pietsch
12.30am Through the Night

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz LW: 198kHz MW: 720 kHz
5.30am News Briefing
5.43 Prayer for the Day
5.45 Farming Today
5.58 Tweet of the Day
6.00 Today
With Nick Robinson and Martha Kearney
8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 Life Changing
Ordinary people talk about extraordinary turning points in their lives (6/7)
9.30 One Dish
Jamie Laing tells Andi Oliver about his mum's Thai chicken noodle soup (12/15)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 Book of the Week: Colditz: Prisoners of the Castle
By Ben MacIntyre (3/10)
10.00 Woman's Hour
A female perspective on the world
11.00 The New Age of Autarky?
The possibility of a new era of national economic self-reliance (1/3) (r)
11.30 A Charles Paris Mystery: Dead Room Farce
By Jeremy Front (2/4) (r)
12.01pm (LW) Shipping Forecast
12.04 You and Yours
1.00 The World at One
1.45 Property of the BBC
Robert Seatter presents three iconic pieces of fashion from the archive (3/5)
2.00 The Archers (r)
2.15 Drama: The 5000
A Shining City on The Hill by Sebastian Baczkiewicz. Dan and Gaius are sent on a mission to the Sea of Galilee (3/3)
3.00 Money Box Live
Financial questions are answered
3.30 All in the Mind
Claudia Hammond investigates mental health, psychology and neuroscience (2) (r)
4.00 Sideways
The author Matthew Syed explores the ideas that shape individuals' lives (3/6)
4.30 The Media Show
Katie Razzall presents the latest news from the fast-changing media world
5.00 PM
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Rob Newman on Air
An exploration of Darwin's hypothesis that speech evolved from song (4/4)
7.00 The Archers
The Hunt Ball prep is in full swing
7.15 Front Row
Arts programme with news and reviews
8.00 Life Changing (r)
8.30 Net Zero: A Very British Problem
What lies ahead if Britain is to eliminate carbon emissions by 2050 (4/4) (r)
9.00 Costing the Earth
Examining how to juggle being a new parent with being eco-friendly (11/13)
9.30 The Media Show (r)
10.00 The World Tonight
News round-up with James Coomarasamy
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Demon Copperhead
By Barbara Kingsolver
11.00 Believe It!
Jon Canter's fictional comedy biography of the actor Richard Wilson (2/4) (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
Analysis of the day's developments
12.00 News and Weather
12.30am Book of the Week: Colditz: Prisoners of the Castle (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast
1.00 As BBC World Service

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only
8.00am The Missing Hancocks **8.30** England's Glory **9.00** Booked **9.30** The Attractive Young Rabbi **10.00** Joseph Andrews **11.00** Billy Bragg's Changing Times **12.00** The Missing Hancocks **12.30pm** England's Glory **1.00** The Christopher Marlowe Mysteries **1.30** The House **2.00** The Channel **2.15** Carmen **2.30** High Speed Radio **3.00** Joseph Andrews **4.00** Booked **4.30** The Attractive Young Rabbi **5.00** Love in Recovery **5.30** Rob Newman on Air **6.00** Dan Dare: Operation Saturn — Part One **6.30** The Palace of Laughter: Stateside **7.00** The Missing Hancocks **7.30** England's Glory. Stars Keith Barron **8.00** The Christopher Marlowe Mysteries. The Turbulent Tale of the Troubl'd Tragedy. By Ged Parsons **8.30** The House. Mary wants to know all about Nick — and Charles needs more info on Tom **9.00** Billy Bragg's Changing Times. Stories of moments where musicians were inspired to protest **10.00** Comedy Club: Rob Newman on Air. The comedian imagines how to future-proof towns **10.30** Rudy's Rare Records. Burglars ransack Rudy's modest Birmingham record shop. Last in the series **11.00** I've Never Seen Star Wars. Les Dennis samples new experiences. From 2013 **11.25** The Comedy Club Interview. Paul Garner chats to Simon Brodkin **11.30** Hearing with Hegley. Comic verse with John Hegley **11.45** Warhorses of Letters. The pair are still apart, despite the war's end

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909
5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** Match of the Day: Top 10 **8.30** 5 Live Sport **9.00** Rugby League. A look ahead to the women's and men's Rugby League World Cup finals **10.00** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz
5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only
5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. Political panel debates **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Live: Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

6 Music
Digital only
5.00am Chris Hawkins **7.30** Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Gideon Coe **12.00** Freak Zone Playlist **1.00am** The First Time with Kevin Rowland **2.00** The First Time with Goldfrapp **3.00** 6 Music Live Hour **4.00** 6 Music's Jukebox

Virgin Radio
Digital only
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show with Sky **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Steve Denyer **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Rich Williams

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz
6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Sam Pittis **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven **10.00** Smooth Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00** Early Breakfast

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Toby Earle

Outsiders
Dave, 10pm

Top pick

What David Mitchell aims to solve in this series is this: which comedians would flourish in complete societal breakdown and who should we entrust with our survival? To achieve this modest objective he releases six comedians into the woods, pairs them into three teams, and sets them tasks to test their alfresco resilience. For this second series Joe Wilkinson and Jessica Hynes, Darren Harriott and Maisie Adam, and Phil Wang and Fatiha El-Ghorri have been pitched against one another. The first few minutes aren't encouraging, as there's one complaint about the lack of wi-fi and another about the ablution facilities. By the end of this episode team dynamics emerge: Wilkinson and Hynes are ruthless, Harriott and Adam's wide-eyed enthusiasm hardens, and the tension between Wang and El-Ghorri promises comic drama. Who needs the jungle?

Piers Morgan Uncensored
TalkTV, 8pm

Cristiano Ronaldo's "explosive" interview with Piers Morgan has been all over the news for the past few days, with the player claiming he has been "betrayed" by his employers, Manchester United. If you think all of the beans have been spilt in the excerpts drip-fed to the media, Morgan is insistent that the Portuguese star should only be judged after the full 90-minute interview has been viewed. The first part is showing tonight, with more to come tomorrow. *Joe Clay*

DIY SOS: Children in Need special
BBC1, 9pm

There's a magnificent construction on view here, a striking work of craftsmanship — not Rylan Clark-Neal's slick quiff, but an impressive new home for the charity Getaway Girls. A number of Radio 2 DJs are involved in giving the Leeds-based project a new home where the team can provide a sanctuary for girls between 11 and 25 who are experiencing abuse, exploitation, or need somewhere to build their confidence. Unlike the dozens and dozens of expert volunteers in their protective gear, you'll have something in your eye well before the end of this special build.

BBC1

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live. Magazine show **10.00** Expert Witness. A look at how food forensics and facial reconstruction can help investigations **10.30** Dirty Rotten Scammers. A man who was tricked into sending an invoice payment to hackers **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Properties about to be auctioned in Brixton, Chesterton and Chelmsford (r) (AD) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Eric Knowles and the teams shop for antiques in Guildford (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Daniel and Rob have a heart-to-heart about parenting teenage girls and Princess passionately pitches for new equipment (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore upcycles a dressing table, a dining set and some beech tree leaves **3.00** Escape to the Country. Steve Brown helps a couple from Hertfordshire to find a new home in Cornwall (r) (AD) **3.45** The Repair Shop. Jay Blades and the team restore a fire helmet, an electric guitar and a toy dog **4.30** The Travelling Auctioneers. Christina Trevanion and Will Kirk help Helen and Ruth in Leicestershire **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

7.00 **The One Show** Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas host the live magazine show featuring an entertaining mix of chat and stories of interest

7.30 **EastEnders** Amy tells Jack to stay out of her life, while Freddie gives Alfie a new money-making idea, only for his plans to be thwarted (AD)

8.00 **MasterChef: The Professionals** Four new chefs compete, taking on skills tests set by Marcus Wareing and Anna Haugh, in which the first two chefs have just 20 minutes to serve a gnocchi dish while the other two make poached apricots and Chantilly cream with an almond tuile (AD)

9.00 **DIY SOS: The Big Build for Children in Need** Nick Knowles and the team are in Leeds, where they and a group of local volunteers transform a derelict site into a new base for the women's charity Getaway Girls. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

10.00 **BBC News at Ten**

10.30 **BBC Regional News and Weather**

10.40 **Louis Theroux Interviews: Bear Grylls** Louis goes off-grid as he spends time in the company of the adventurer and television presenter, travelling with him to his private island off the coast of Wales (4/6) (r) (AD)

11.25 **Wreck** Jamie Walsh boards cruise ship The Sacramentum in search of his missing sister, and discovers a conspiracy far darker than he could ever imagine (1/6) (r) (AD)

Late

12.10am Wreck After shocking news concerning a chief suspect, Jamie and new friend Vivian work together to discover the identity of an officer onboard who was connected to his sister. Comedy thriller starring Oscar Kennedy and Thaddea Graham (r) (AD) **12.55** Top Gear. Motoring magazine (r) **2.00-6.00** BBC News

BBC2

Early

6.30am The Repair Shop (r) **7.15** The Travelling Auctioneers (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: MasterChef: The Professionals. The strongest chefs from the first two heats return for the opening quarter-final (r) (AD, SL) **9.00** BBC News **10.00** BBC News **11.15** Politics Live. The latest stories from Westminster **1.00pm** Live Snooker: UK Championship. Coverage of the afternoon session on day five at York Barbican, featuring two last-16 matches, played over the best of 11 frames. The only match to go to a deciding frame at this stage last year saw Andy Hicks record a shock 6-5 win over David Gilbert to reach the quarter-finals for the first time since 1995 **5.15** Flog It! Jonathan Pratt and Michael Baggott assess items at Barrow Hill Roundhouse in Derbyshire. Presenter Paul Martin visits nearby Renishaw Hall to learn about the Sitwell Trio — three siblings who took the artistic and literary world by storm in the early 20th century (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Previous winners Yasmine Akram, Stephen Mangan, Ingrid Oliver and Tom Rosenthal test their general knowledge skills in a variety of trivia-based games **6.30** Strictly: It Takes Two. A look at how the contestants are shaping up for Saturday

7.00 **Iolo's Anglesey** Wales' largest island, is renowned for its coastal beauty, and on the sand dunes, cliffs and farmland there's also spectacular wildlife (3/4)

7.30 **Nigella's Cook, Eat, Repeat** Nigella Lawson shares the rhythms and rituals of her kitchen and reveals the inspiration behind many of her recipes

8.00 **Celebrity Antiques Road Trip** *Strictly Come Dancing* stars, and husband and wife, Aljaz Skorjanec and Janette Manrara hunt for antiques around Oxfordshire, joined by David Harper and Izzie Balmer. An arts and crafts candlestick and a novelty vesta case feature amongst the buys

9.00 **Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby** Giles Coren and Monica Galetti join the staff working in some of the most unusual hotels around the world, learning the tricks of the trade

10.00 **Two Doors Down** Beth and Eric look after Alan, who is laid up on the sofa in a surgical boot and struggling to fend for himself (2/6) (AD)

10.30 **Newsnight** Headline analysis

11.15 **Snooker: UK Championship** Action from the opening day of last-16 matches, held at York Barbican and played over the best of 11 frames

Late

12.05am Snooker: UK Championship Extra Extended highlights from one of today's last-16 matches **2.05** Sign Zone: The Elon Musk Show. Elon Musk revolutionises the car market and wants to take mankind to Mars (r) (AD, SL) **3.05** Villages by the Sea. Parkgate on the estuary of the River Dee (r) (SL) **3.35-4.20** Best Bakes Ever (r) (SL)

ITV

Early

6.00am Good Morning Britain. News, current affairs and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring interviews **1.30** ITV News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and his dealers Henry Nicholls, Stewart Hofgartner, Tim Hogarth and Mark Stevens asses anqitues in Burton (AD) **3.00** Riddiculous. Quiz show hosted by Ranvir Singh in which contestants take on Riddlemaster Henry Lewis as they attempt to answer general knowledge questions and confusing conundrums **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize (r) **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

7.30 **Emmerdale** Amelia is struggling, Samson sinks to a new low, and David is feeling deflated (AD)

8.00 **Coronation Street** Howard gives Gemma reason to suspect him, Debbie is unimpressed by Nick and Leanne's insulting offer, and Stu strives to make a favourable impression as Eliza moves in to Number 6 (AD)

9.00 **I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec look at highlights from the past 24 hours as the campmates continue to grapple with life in the Australian jungle, and take on everything that is thrown at them in the hope to win stars to feed camp

10.30 **ITV News**

11.00 **Regional News**

11.15 **Peston** Political magazine show presented by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures. Including updates from social media taking in perspectives from viewers, experts and key players throughout the programme

Late

12.10am Teleshopping 3.00 Building Nightmares: The True Cost? Tonight. With thousands of homeowners left in financial ruin because of cowboy builders, Michelle Ackerley finds out whether more can be done to stop these rogue traders (r) (SL) **3.25** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** Ainsley's Mediterranean Cookbook (r) (SL)

Channel 4

Early

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.55** Frasier (r) (AD) **10.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) **11.25** Channel 4 News Summary **11.30** Château DIY (r) (AD) **12.30pm** Steph's Packed Lunch. Magazine show **2.10** Countdown. Bobby Seagull is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** A Place in the Sun. A quest for a property in the lively resort of Corralejo on Fuerteventura (r) **4.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A Perthshire couple search for a holiday home in Alicante, and having decided the time is right, they are determined not to leave until they find the perfect place (r) **5.00** Four in a Bed. The competition continues as the guests arrive at Bay House in Scarborough for a socially distanced stay (r) **5.30** Come Dine with Me. A woman hosts a dinner party in Bournemouth featuring a menu inspired by her international travels, only for one guest to discover a soggy bottom in her pastry (AD) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer angers Marge by binge-watching their favourite show on his own (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Norma lets Grace in on her plan to help Warren, while Nancy and Brooke confront Zara about a "special ingredient" they suspect she may have added to the cakes for Jack's party (AD)

7.00 **Channel 4 News**

7.55 **Rory Peck Awards** (AD)

8.00 **Location, Location, Location** New series. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house-hunting on the Kent coast — Phil's home turf. He is with a woman who is moving out from her parents' in Hertfordshire and wants to live in the midst of Margate's vibrant LGBTQ+ community

9.00 **Grand Designs: House of the Year** New series. The properties in the running for the 2022 Royal Institute of British Architects House of the Year award, including a playful pink beach house built to withstand fierce winds and a DIY eco-home in Stirlingshire. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

10.00 **Britain's Most Expensive Houses** Documentary going behind the scenes with UK Sotheby's luxury estate agents. Two brokers head to Windsor to view a £30million mansion on behalf of a French Moroccan socialite who cannot travel due to Covid-19 restrictions (1/4) (r) (AD)

11.05 **Unapologetic** The DJ and presenter Yinka Bokinni and social media star Zeze Millz talk to Kojey Radical about femininity coaches, the rules or lack thereof of co-parenting, and if people have become too sensitive to criticism. They also discuss the use of American slang in the UK (5/6)

Late

12.05am Random Acts: Whose Voice Is it Anyway? (AD, SL) **12.15** Married to a Psychopath (r) (AD, SL) **1.10** Made in the 80s (r) (AD, SL) **2.05 FILM: Skin Trade (15, 2014)** (AD) **3.40** Unreported World (r) (AD, SL) **4.10** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) (SL) **5.00** Devon and Cornwall (r) **5.55-6.05** Sunday Brunch Best Bits

Channel 5

Early

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley joining him for phone-ins and reading out viewers' correspondence **12.45pm** Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law. Two thieves are apprehended in a sports store (r) **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Remi is concerned when Bree does not reply to his text. Rose keeps following the trail on Heather, suspecting there was more at play (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: A Small Town Christmas Wish (PG, TVM, 2021)** A young woman decides to take a shot at love when she feels an instant attraction to a widowed firefighter on a reality cooking show. Festive romance with Alex Rinehart **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Cameras catch up with a young couple whose new baby was born 11 weeks early, and is spending the first part of her life in an incubator (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Winter Road Rescue. Documentary following snowplough teams and RAC patrols **6.30** Eggheads. Border Raiders, a group of friends who take part in online quizzes every Wednesday, take on the regular quiz experts, while Jeremy Vine asks the questions **6.55** 5 News Update

7.00 **The Gadget Show: Better Tech, Better Life** Ortis and Georgie show their guests some automated technology to make domestic chores easier, test out the latest voice-controlled speakers, and check out a cutting-edge smart projector (8/12)

7.55 **5 News Update**

8.00 **Shoplifters: At War with the Law** Documentary following shopping centre security teams who are locked in a cat and mouse battle to catch criminals

9.00 **Inside Monster Mansion: HMP Frankland** Documentary exploring life inside HMP Frankland, the men's maximum security prison in County Durham, which has housed some of the country's most notorious criminals, including Peter Sutcliffe, Ian Huntley and Delroy Grant. The programme recounts some of the violent prison attacks that have taken place over the years, including one so horrifying that it forced a staff member to retire. *See Viewing Guide*

10.35 **A&E After Dark** The night shift staff treat an elderly pedestrian who has been run over by a motorcycle. A CT scan reveals broken ribs, a bleed in the brain, and a broken shoulder (4/10) (r)

11.35 **Ambulance: Code Red** Paramedics rush a man to hospital after a grisly circular saw incident, and an elderly man goes into cardiac arrest (r)

Late

12.25am Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders Concerned 999 callers report an HGV swerving all over the M6 (r) **1.15** The LeoVegas Live Casino Show **3.15** Police Interceptors (r) **4.00** Shoplifters & Scammers: At War with the Law (r) **4.45** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.35** Peppa Pig (r) (SL) **5.50-6.00** Pip and Posy (r)



Off air - Jane and Fi's new podcast

Fresh from their all new Times Radio show Jane Garvey and Fi Glover keep the mics on, grab a cuppa and say what they really think - unencumbered and off air.

Listen with the Times Radio app or wherever you find your podcasts and catch them on air Monday to Thursday, 3-5pm.

Grand Designs: House of the Year
Channel 4, 9pm

Should Mike Myers ever need a location for a new Austin Powers film, Kevin McCloud can hook him up with a restored 1960s bungalow with details that are out of sight. Those details aren't too hidden, though, otherwise it wouldn't be in the running for the 2022 Royal Institute of British Architects House of the Year award. In this first episode of long-listed homes we are introduced to the Hard to Build category, the sort that leads one homeowner to say, "It was horrific, but I'm glad we did it."

Inside Monster Mansion: HMP Frankland
Channel 5, 9pm

"I was going to bleed out, there and then, in this room in the middle of the prison. I'd lost eight pints of blood by the time I got to University Hospital," says Craig Wylde, as the former HMP Frankland prison guard describes a near-lethal attack while on duty. Violence is a recurring subject. The prison in Co Durham has housed men synonymous with unconscionable acts, including Levi Bellfield, Wayne Couzens and Peter Sutcliffe. Former inmates describe their time there, with some stories of how they entertained themselves.

Michael Dobbs Remembers: House of Cards
BBC4, 10pm

Escape from news of present governmental chaos by delving into governmental chaos of the 1990s, when the chief whip Francis Urquhart (Ian Richardson) foments instability within the Conservative Party to eliminate his rivals and ensure passage into No 10. These days it would take this manipulator half an hour. Before three episodes of the show, the book's author, Michael Dobbs, reflects on a drama that was so of the zeitgeist, John Major's campaign team would apparently stop work on a Sunday night to watch and learn.

Film Juggernaut
Talking Pictures TV, 9pm

Richard Lester's taut direction means that this film about a blackmailer planting bombs on board a liner is streets ahead of your average disaster movie. Richard Harris and David Hemmings are parachuted in to disable the devices. (PG, 1974)

Sky Max

6.00am Stargate SG-1 (r) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** The Blacklist (r) (AD) **10.00** Supergirl (r) **11.00** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **1.00pm** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **2.00** S.W.A.T. (r) (AD) **3.00** The Blacklist (r) (AD) **4.00** The Flash (r) **5.00** Supergirl. Cadmus attacks National City (r) **6.00** Stargate SG-1. Sci-fi drama series (r) **7.00** Stargate SG-1. A brutal predator is attacking inhabitants of a new world (r) **8.00** Freddie Down Under. Andrew Flintoff and Rob Penn go snake-catching (3/6) (r) (AD) **9.00** Rob & Romesh vs The Three Lions. Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan meet the stars of the England men's football team **10.00** Jamie and Harry's World Cup Challenge: Got, Got, Need. Jamie Redknapp and his dad Harry fly to Madrid to meet Luka Modric (r) **11.00** Fantasy Football League (r) **11.35** The Russell Howard Hour (r) **12.20am** Road Wars (r) **1.55** The Force: North East (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T. Drama (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r) (AD)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.45** Gomorrah (r) **10.00** True Blood (r) **12.15pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.20** The Leftovers (r) **3.30** Gomorrah (r) **5.45** True Blood. Sam tries to fill in the gaps in his past (r) **6.50** True Blood. Russell Edgington, the Vampire King of Mississippi, seeks Bill's assistance (r) **7.55** Game of Thrones. Daenerys holds court, and Jaime learns from his mistakes (r) (AD) **9.00** Perry Mason. Sister Alice impulsively offers the Dodsons the church's moral and financial support. A shocking admission from Baggerly meets Mason's wrath (2/8) (r) (AD) **10.10** Gangs of London. Elliot tries to free himself of the Investors once and for all (r) **11.20** The Deuce. Vincent reconnects with his ex-wife, and Lori goes back to work (r) (AD) **12.25am** The Deuce. American drama (r) (AD) **1.30** In Treatment (r) **2.00** Gangs of London. As alliances are redrawn, Lale comes face to face with nemesis Asif **3.05** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **4.10** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am First Ladies (r) (AD) **7.00** Discovering: Joseph Cotten (r) **7.55** The Directors (r) **8.50** Hillary (r) (AD) **10.00** Discovering: Blondie (r) **10.30** Discovering: Cher (r) (AD) **11.00** The Seventies (r) (AD) **12.00** Brazil 2002 (r) **1.50pm** My Icon: Casey Stoney (r) (AD) **2.00** The United Way (r) (AD) **3.45** My Icon: Chris Hughton (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **4.55** Discovering: Joseph Cotten (r) **5.50** Hillary (r) **7.00** The Seventies (3/8) (r) (AD) **7.50** Hostages. The Carter administration launches an ill-fated rescue mission (3/4) (r) **9.00 FILM: Gascoigne (15, 2015)** Documentary about Paul Gascoigne **10.50** Dark Horses: Italy's World Cup Triumph. Italy advance from the group stage (1/4) (r) **11.50 FILM: Busby (PG, 2019)** A profile of former Manchester United manager Matt Busby **1.50am** My Icon: Michael Holding (r) (AD) **2.00 FILM: Say Hey, Willie Mays! (12, TVM, 2022)** The life of the baseball player **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** The Seventies (r) (AD)

Sky Arts

6.00am Darbar: Music of India **7.00** 2Cellos at Sydney Opera House **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Donald Sutherland **12.00** National Treasures: The Art of Collecting (AD) **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Leonard Bernstein By Dame Kiri Te Kanawa **3.00** Portrait Artist of the Year 2020 **4.00** Discovering: Dirk Bogarde **5.00** Tales of the Unexpected **6.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.30** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **7.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2018 **8.00** Portrait Artist of the Year. The contestants paint sitters Henning Wehn, Lemar and Candice Carty-Williams **9.00** Nina Simone: The Lost Album **10.30** The Great Songwriters. With Emeli Sandé **11.30** The Eighties. The Cold War (AD) **12.30am** Pink Floyd: The Story of Wish You Were Here **1.45** Christina Hendricks: Off Camera **3.00** Discovering: Angela Bassett **4.00** Frida Kahlo (AD) **5.00** Landscape Artist of the Year

Sky Main Event

6.00am World Cup Countdown. Build-up to the FIFA World Cup **7.00** World Cup Breakfast. A review of all of the latest news and talking points from the 2022 FIFA World Cup **10.00** World Cup Countdown. Build-up to the FIFA World Cup **5.00pm** Live International Football: Turkey v Scotland (Kick-off **6.00**). Coverage of the friendly match at Diyarbakir Stadium. This is only the second time these two sides have met, with the only other meeting coming in 1960 when Turkey won 4-2 in a friendly match **7.00** Live Grand Slam of Darts. All the action from the fifth day of the competition at The Aldersley Leisure Village in Wolverhampton, featuring four second-round matches **11.00** World Cup Countdown **12.00** Total Access. The latest NFL news **1.00am** World Cup Countdown. Build-up to the FIFA World Cup **5.00** Live DP World Tour Golf. The DP World Tour Championship. Day one of the season-ending event at Jumeirah Golf Estates in Dubai

T AUDIO



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

TalkTV

5.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham. The host tears his way through the morning newspapers **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues and stimulating debates **4.00** Vanessa Feltz. Vanessa guides you through the big stories of the day **7.00** Jeremy Kyle Live. The straight-talking voice of the people takes on important issues **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events. The programme includes the first part of his interview with the Manchester United footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. *See Viewing Guide* **9.00** The Talk. Join Sharon Osbourne and a panel of opinionated famous faces from the worlds of politics, showbiz, business and current affairs to debate the hot topics everybody's talking about **10.00** First Edition. A look at tomorrow's news through the lens of the newspaper first editions **11.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **12.00** Live: Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Vanessa Feltz **2.00** Jeremy Kyle Live **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

7.00pm Great American Railroad Journeys. Michael Portillo explores Montreal **7.30** Canal Boat Diaries. Robbie Cumming explores the English canal network (1/5) **8.00** Secret Life of Farm Animals. Documentary examining the behaviour of farm animals, beginning by focusing on the sheep on a Welsh hill farm. Plus, a piglet that thinks it is a cow **9.00** Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered. After the discovery of human bones on a beach in Antigua, the historian Sam Willis explores the island's ruins to help him investigate one of the darkest chapters of Britain's imperial past **10.00** Michael Dobbs Remembers: House of Cards. The author and politician looks back on the 1990s drama based on his best-selling novel of the same name. *See Viewing Guide* **10.15** House of Cards. Political drama starring Ian Richardson and Susannah Harker (1/4) **11.10** House of Cards. Francis Urquhart plots the downfall of the Prime Minister at a Conservative Party conference (2/4) **12.10am** House of Cards **2.10** Great American Railroad Journeys **2.40-3.10** Canal Boat Diaries

Talking Pictures

6.00am The Detectives **6.30 FILM: A Gunman Has Escaped (PG, 1948)** (b/w) **7.35 FILM: Jackpot (PG, 1960)** (b/w) **9.00** Dick Powell's Zane Grey Theatre (b/w) **9.35 FILM: Who Killed the Cat? (U, 1966)** (b/w) **11.20** Derek Fowlds: A Part Well Played **12.00 FILM: Innocent Sinners (U, 1958)** (b/w) **1.50pm** Look at Life **2.00** Upstairs, Downstairs **3.00** Saddle Up **3.10 FILM: The Oregon Trail (U, 1959)** Western **4.55** Saddle Up **5.00 FILM: The Outcasts of Poker Flat (PG, 1952)** Western with Anne Baxter (b/w) **6.40** Saddle Up. A look at next week's films **6.50** Go Go with Matt Monro **7.30 Time to Remember** An overview of 1914. Narrated by Sir Michael Redgrave **8.00** The Onedin Line **9.00 FILM: Juggernaut (PG, 1974)** Thriller starring Richard Harris and Anthony Hopkins. *See Viewing Guide* **11.10 FILM: A Private Function (15, 1984)** Alan Bennett's comedy starring Michael Palin **1.00am** Callan **2.00 FILM: The Man Who Cheated Himself (PG, 1950)** (b/w) **3.40 FILM: Nightbeat (PG, 1947)** (b/w) **5.35 FILM: County Hospital (U, 1932)** (b/w)

Film4

11.00am Arabian Nights (PG, 1942) Adventure starring Jon Hall **12.45pm Freedom Radio (PG, 1940)** Second World War drama starring Clive Brook (b/w) **2.35 Ten Wanted Men (U, 1955)** Western starring Randolph Scott **4.15 The Riddle of the Sands (U, 1979)** Spy thriller with Simon MacCorkindale **6.20 Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World (12, 2003)** A British naval captain faces a battle of wits with a French rival during the Napoleonic wars. Drama starring Russell Crowe and Paul Bettany (AD) **9.00 Deadpool 2 (15, 2018)** The wisecracking anti-hero attempts to protect a young mutant being pursued by a heavily armed cyborg from the future. Action comedy starring Ryan Reynolds, Josh Brolin and Julian Dennison (AD) **11.20 Krisha (15, 2015)** A woman returns for Thanksgiving dinner after a decade away from her family, but demons threaten to scupper the festivities. Comedy drama with Krisha Fairchild **1.00am-3.25 The Dressmaker (12, 2015)** In 1950s Australia, a fashion designer returns to her remote home town, planning to reconcile with her mother. Drama with Kate Winslet (AD)

More4

8.55am Food Unwrapped **9.15** A Place in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. From Stenhousemuir (AD) **5.55** Escape to the Château: DIY (AD) **6.55** Escape to the Château. Dick and Angel prepare to host seven weddings (AD) **7.55** Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud revisits a couple who built a home containing a sauna, spa, dance floor and DJ booth on a small patch of land in Kensington, London, in 2010 (10/12) (AD) **9.00** Griff's Canadian Adventure. The comedian Griff Rhys Jones travels across Canada, from the Atlantic coast to the Pacific northwest, visiting each of the nation's provinces (AD) **10.00** 24 Hours in A&E. A 66-year-old is rushed to St George's struggling to breathe, while a 10-year-old is brought in having fallen at school and suffered internal bleeding (3/8) (AD) **11.05** 24 Hours in A&E. A three-year-old is brought in with a high temperature (4/8) (AD) **12.10am** The Mum Who Got Tourette's (AD) **1.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. With Harry Hill and Rose Matafeo **2.15** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.20-3.50** Food Unwrapped (AD)

ITV2

6.00am Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **7.00** The Cabins **8.00** Secret Crush (SL) **10.00** Dress to Impress **12.00** I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Supermarket Sweep **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Hart of Dixie **5.00** I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! Highlights from the past 24 hours **6.00** Celebrity Catchphrase (AD) **7.00** Dress to Impress. Reality show **8.00** Bob's Burgers. Tina and the rest of the family help her learn a hand slap song (AD) **8.30** Bob's Burgers. Gene ends up infected with pinworms, which causes everyone to worry if they have picked up the disease (AD) **9.00** Family Guy. Meg looks after Joe (AD) **9.30** Family Guy. Animated comedy (AD) **10.00** Don't Hate the Playaz. Music contest with Oti Mabuse, Kojey Radical and Snoochie Shy **10.45** Family Guy. Animated comedy (AD) **11.15** American Dad! (AD) **11.45** American Dad! (AD) **12.15am** Bob's Burgers (AD) **1.15** Shopping with Keith Lemon **2.15** CelebAbility **2.55** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3

6.00am Classic Coronation Street (AD) **7.00** Classic Emmerdale **8.05** Bless This House **9.10** Agatha Christie's Poirot (AD) **11.30** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.50** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.55** Midsomer Murders. The annual Scarecrow Festival takes a grisly turn as bodies begin appearing on poles (AD) **6.00** Heartbeat. Chaos reigns in Aidensfield after a sniper shoots a woman as she leaves a meeting of the flower show committee (AD) **7.00** Heartbeat. An anti-war protest has serious consequences for Walker, while a cobra causes havoc after escaping from vet Fergus' car (AD) **8.00** Grace. Branson and Grace investigate the murder of socialite and patron of local charities Katya Bishop, whose entrepreneur husband Kit becomes the main suspect (2/4) (AD) **10.00** Foyle's War. When an employee at a military psychiatric hospital is found murdered, there is no shortage of suspects, but information regarding a missing boy becomes Foyle's top priority. Michael Kitchen stars (2/3) (AD) **12.05am** Agatha Christie's Marple. Mystery (AD) **2.05** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am World of Sport **6.10** Robin of Sherwood **7.20** The Champions **8.20** Magnum, PI **9.20** The Professionals (AD) **10.30** Minder (AD) **11.35** Robin of Sherwood **12.40pm** The Champions **1.45** Giant Lobster Hunters **2.50** Magnum, PI **3.50** The Professionals (AD) **4.55** Minder (AD) **6.00** Giant Lobster Hunters. Skipper Peter finds pickings slim at the end of the winter season **7.00** World of Sport. Featuring George Best **7.15** Live FA Cup Football: Salford City v Peterborough United (Kick-off **7.45**). Mark Pougatch presents action from the first-round replay at Peninsula Stadium. With analysis from Danny Webber and Aaron McLean, commentary by Sam Matterface and Andros Townsend **10.00** World Superbike Highlights. All the action from the 11th and penultimate round of the season, which came from Mandalika International Street Circuit in Indonesia **11.00** The Motorbike Show. Henry Cole brings his latest restoration to a stunning conclusion **12.00** Football League Legends **12.10am** When the World Watched **1.45** The Professionals (AD, SL) **2.40** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.00** 'Allo 'Allo! **7.40** All Creatures Great and Small **8.40** New Tricks (AD) **10.00** Classic Casualty **12.00** The Bill **1.00pm** Classic EastEnders **2.20** Dalziel & Pascoe (AD) **4.20** All Creatures Great and Small **5.25** Waiting for God. Tom completes a bungee jump **6.00** 'Allo 'Allo! Comedy starring Gorden Kaye **6.40** Last of the Summer Wine **7.20** Last of the Summer Wine. Barry wins a competition. Classic comedy starring Mike Grady **8.00** Sherlock. Holmes and Watson head to the countryside to investigate the peculiar case of a monstrous hound stalking the wilds of Dartmoor. Detective drama starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman (2/3) (AD) **10.00** New Tricks. Sandra discovers a secret about her father, which causes her to doubt everything she took for granted (8/8) (AD) **11.20** Spooks. An imprisoned religious extremist leader sends two recently released inmates on a suicide revenge mission (4/6) **12.40am** 'Allo 'Allo! **1.20** Waiting for God **2.00** Auf Wiedersehen, Pet. The lads camp out **3.00** A Place to Call Home **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.00am Churchill's Bodyguard **8.00** Top Gear (AD) **9.00** Nazi Hunters **10.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **1.00pm** Bangers and Cash **2.00** Great British Railway Journeys **3.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **5.00** Nazi Hunters **6.00** War Factories. Škoda's Czech factory **7.00** Abandoned Engineering. Documentary exploring a series of vaults, hidden from view in Edinburgh, Scotland, that tell a murky story of opportunity, crime and destitution (3/12) (AD) **8.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from the Swiss Alps to the shores of Lake Geneva. Along the way, he is caught in a war zone with the Red Cross **9.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. Spin-off series that follows the journey of a vehicle being restored and re-auctioned (AD) **10.00** Bangers and Cash. A man reluctantly sends his dream car to auction (9/10) **11.00** Abandoned Engineering (4/12) (AD) **12.00** Top Gear (AD) **1.00am** Churchill's Bodyguard. Double bill **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Nurses. Lisa's patient goes to London for a stem cell transplant **11.10** Louis Theroux Interviews: Bear Grylls (r) (AD) **11.55** Wreck (r) (AD) **12.40am** Wreck (r) (AD) **1.30-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 2.15pm Politics Scotland **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing **10.40** The Scotts **11.10** Stevens & McCarthy (r) **11.25** Sportscene: International Friendly Highlights. Turkey v Scotland **11.55** The Edit (r) **12.10am** Scottish Questions **12.40** Wreck (r) (AD) **1.25** Wreck (r) (AD) **2.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.15-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 8.00pm Together Stronger. Chris Coleman quits and Wales turns to Ryan Giggs. Last in the series **9.00-10.00** MasterChef: The Professionals. Four new chefs compete for a place in the quarter-final (AD) **10.35** BBC Wales Live. Hard-hitting stories and interviews **11.10** DIY SOS: The Big Build for Children in Need. Transforming a derelict site in Leeds into a base for women's charity Getaway Girls (AD) **12.10am** Wreck (r) (AD) **12.55** Wreck (r) (AD) **1.40-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30 The Irish League Show **11.15** Two Doors Down. Beth and Eric look after Alan (AD) **11.45** Snooker: UK Championship. The last 16 **12.35am-2.05** Snooker: UK Championship Extra

STV
As ITV except: 11.00pm STV News **11.10** Scotland Tonight **11.35** Peston. Political magazine with Robert Peston **12.30am-3.00** Teleshopping **3.25-5.05** Night Vision

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney (r) (AD) **8.00** The Trials That Shocked Scotland **8.30** Return to Uist (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City (AD) **10.30** The War Next Door: Scotland and the Troubles (r) **11.30-12.00** David Wilson's Crime Files: Cold Cases. Exploring the concept of guilt (r) (AD)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** Su Pic (Peek Zoo) (r) **5.10** Bing (r) **5.15** Nannag a' Noo/ Huggleboo (r) **5.25** Lon le Linda (r) **5.40** Peataichean/Pets (r) **5.45** Pip & Posy (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.00** Kung Fu Panda (r) **6.25** @12 (r) **6.30** Damhan & Durrag/Pipas & Douglas (r) **6.35** Saidheans Sporsail (Backyard Science) (r) **7.00** An Solas Buan (Lighthouses of Scotland) (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Rum Gu Rum, Le Erica (r) **9.00** 'San Fhuil (It's in the Blood) (r) **10.00** Scotland's Wild Side **10.30** Women's Sport 360 (r) **11.05** Dealbh is Slighe (r) **11.15** ALT (r) **11.30** Orain Oir (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Timpo (r) **6.10** Oli Wyn (r) **6.20** Guto Gwningen (r) **6.35** Bach a Mawr (r) **6.50** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **7.00** Sali Mali (r) **7.05** Nico Nôg (r) **7.15** Y Diwrnod Mawr (r) **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Cacamwnci (r) **8.00** Peppa (r) **8.05** Digbi Draig (r) **8.20** Ysbyty Cyw Bach (r) **8.35** Wibli Sochyn y Mochyn (r) **8.45** Loti Borloti (r) **9.00** Blociau Rhif (r) **9.05** Stiw (r) **9.20** Sbarc (r) **9.35** Pablo (r) **9.45** Fferm Fach (r) **10.00** Timpo (r) **10.10** Oli Wyn (r) **10.20** Guto Gwningen (r) **10.35** Bach a Mawr (r) **10.50** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw: Caru Canu (r) **11.05** Sbridiri (r) **11.20** Olobobs (r) **11.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **11.40** Sbarc (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Nyrsys (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Ar Werth (r) **1.30** Richard Holt: Yr Academi Felys (r) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News; Weather **3.05** Antur y Gorllewin (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Sali Mali (r) **4.05** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.15** Fferm Fach (r) **4.30** Pablo (r) **4.45** Cacamwnci (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Oi! Osgar (r) **5.10** Lolipop (r) **5.35** Y Dyfnfor (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Pobl a'u Gerddi (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) (AD) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Pobol y Cwm (AD) **8.25** Dan Do **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Gogglebocs Cymru **10.00** Nôl i'r Gwersyll (r) **11.00** Y Byd ar Bedwar (r) **11.30-12.05am** Y Ditectif (r) (AD)

MindGames

Poker Byron Jacobs

Thin value

I recently played in a charity event, sponsored by Pokerstars, that was part of the London leg of the European Poker Tour. The following hand shows how profitable it can be to get involved with players when you have a good handle on how they play – even when your own holding is poor.

For the first 90 minutes of this event I was barely visible. This was primarily because I had been dealt virtually nothing but it is also not a bad idea to play quietly in the early stages. The pots tend to be small so you don't miss much value by being passive. Furthermore, not being distracted by actually having to play creates some space to focus on the other players. Picking up reads on them is useful for when the pots eventually get bigger and a decent number of chips are at stake.

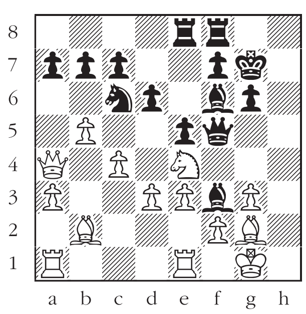
A player sitting two seats to my right was very active, seeming to get involved with anything even slightly playable. He was also very "sticky", meaning he was reluctant to release his hand if he could find any reason whatever to continue. There were two hands when his opponent bet the river for a reasonable amount and he called. On both occasions his opponent turned over a weak hand and I expected our Hero to reveal a better one and scoop the pot. However, he simply pushed his cards into the middle, face down, indicating that he couldn't beat these feeble hands. In live play (as opposed to online) you are not obliged to reveal your hand if you call and are beaten.

A little later our Hero once again opened the betting. I had A♥-2♥, which is, theoretically, too weak to play against an opener and should be folded. However, I wanted to play against this player and called. Happily, everyone else folded so we took the flop heads-up. It came 7-6-2, giving me a low pair. He checked, I bet small and he called. The turn brought 7-6-2-10. The 10 is slightly ugly as it could pair him (he will often have A-10, K-10 etc.) and it also creates straight possibilities. He checked, I bet small again and he called.

The river was a 4 (7-6-2-10-4) and he checked once again. I had a very feeble fifth pair. Occasionally it is possible to bet quite weak hands on the grounds that when Villain calls with a bluff-catcher (also a weak hand but one able to beat pure bluffs) your feeble hand beats their feeble hand more often than not. This is known as *thin value betting*. However, betting fifth pair is not so much thin as positively scrawny. Nevertheless, I bet full pot. He squirmed, gazed at the ceiling and eventually called. I turned over my awful hand which, sure enough, proved good enough. This time, however, he revealed his hand (A-K) as if to say, "I had you crushed pre-flop and you should never have played the hand." Which is true. But I did and I won a decent pot.

For more puzzles, including an extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

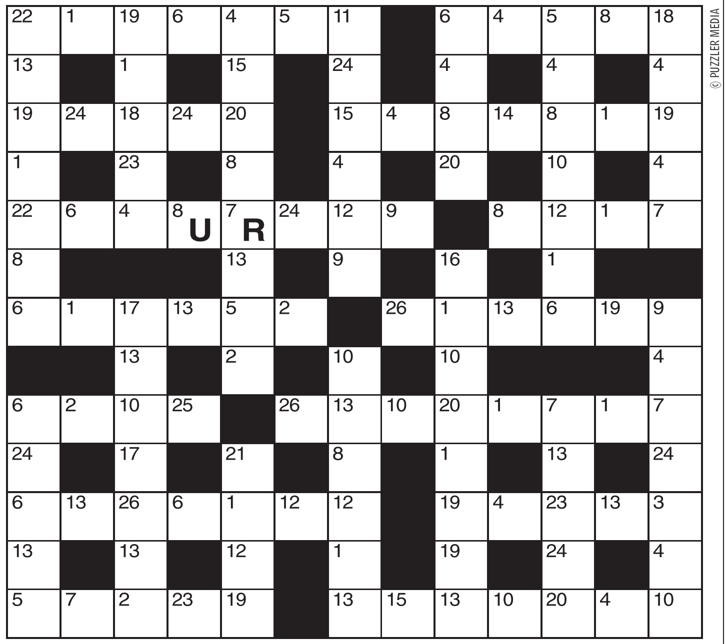
Winning Move



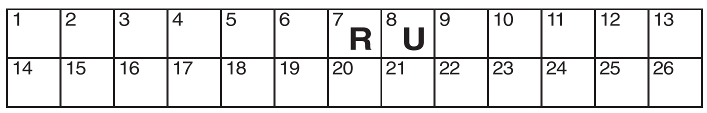
Black to play.
This position is from Lopez Martinez-Fernandez Siles, Titled Tuesday, chess.com 2022.

The structure where White has a bishop on g2 (or b2 – or b7/g7 for Black) is known as a fianchetto. If the king castles on the same side it creates a solid defensive formation but, as here, the "hole" on g2 can become a problem if the opponent builds a promising attack. How did Black quickly create overwhelming threats?

Codeword No 4747



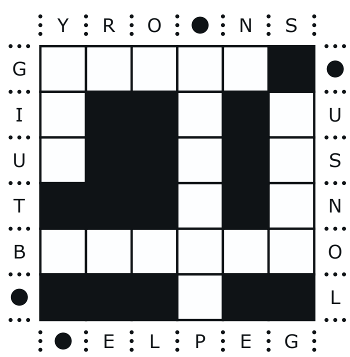
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q ~~R~~ S T ~~U~~ V W X Y Z

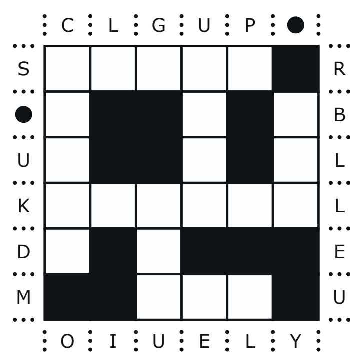


Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

Cluelines **Stuck on Codeword?** To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

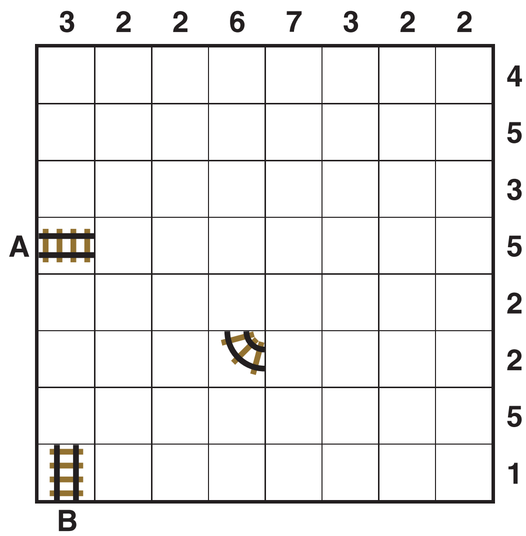
Lexica No 6615 No 6616





Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

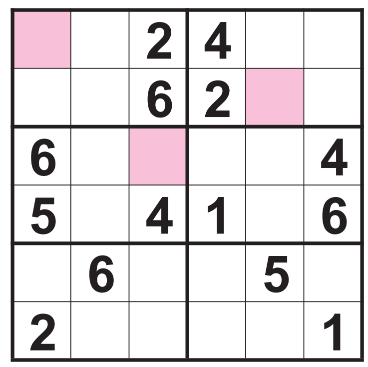
Train Tracks No 1787

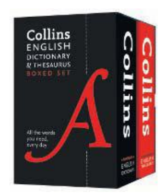


Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

Win a Dictionary & Thesaurus

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6





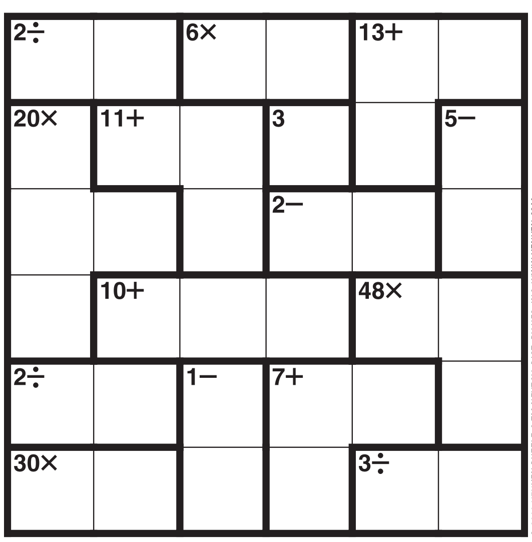
Winners will receive a *Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus*

Solve the puzzle and text in the numbers in the three shaded boxes. Text TIMES followed by a space, then your three numbers, eg, TIMES 123, plus your name, address and postcode to 64343 (UK only), by midnight. Or enter by phone. Call 09012 925274 (ROI 1516 303 501) by midnight. Leave your three answer numbers (in any order) and your contact details.

Calls cost £1 (ROI €1.50) plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. Winners will be picked at random from all correct answers received. One draw per week. Lines close at midnight tonight. If you call or text after this time you will not be entered but will still be charged. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames? Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

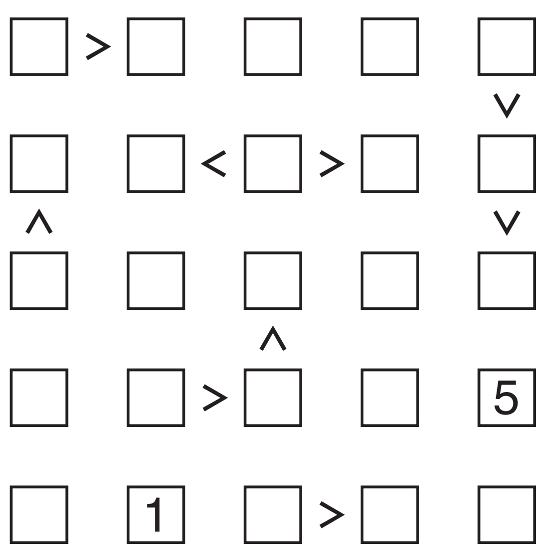
KenKen Medium No 5739



© 2010 KENKEN PUZZLE & TM NEXTOY. DIST. BY UFS, INC. WWW.KENKEN.COM

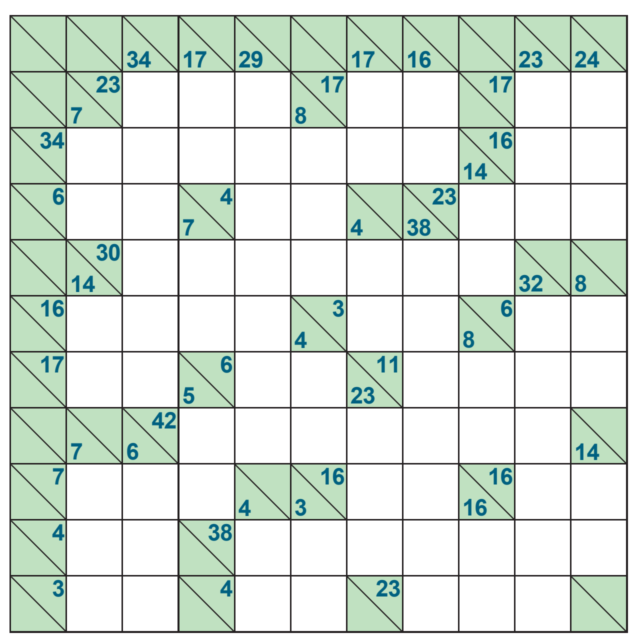
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4348



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3307

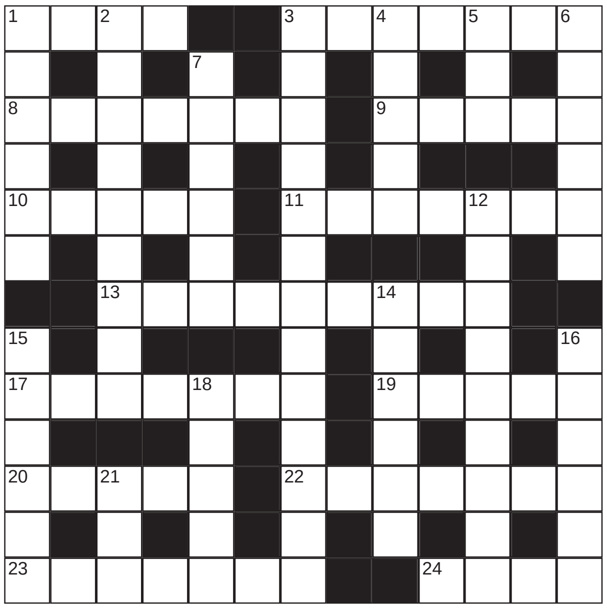


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

© PUZZLER MEDIA

MindGames

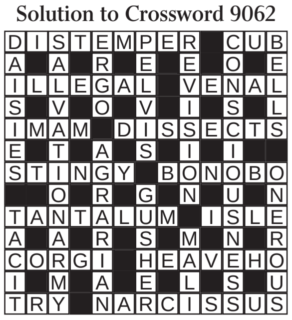
times2 Crossword No 9063



Across
1 Columba's monastery isle (4)
3 Uninhabited N Atlantic island (7)
8 Appointed to a committee by its members (2-5)
9 Board game (5)
10 Mode of expression (5)
11 Sound of a sneeze (7)
13 Paused in indecision (9)
17 Mexican peninsula (7)
19 German submarine (1-4)
20 Competitor (5)
22 Rebuke (7)
23 Large island of Kent (7)
24 Idris —, actor (4)

Down
1 Island off Naples (6)
2 Last part of Stone Age (9)
3 Electromagnetic radiation (7,6)
4 Succulent plants (5)
5 Metric unit of area (3)
6 Greek island (*B, not V*) (6)
7 Postage labels (6)
12 Fast boat (9)
14 Powerful suit (6)
15 EU country (6)
16 Location of Fingal's Cave (6)
18 Garden bulb (5)
21 Contend in rivalry (3)

Solution to Crossword 9062



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Five Instructive Themes
20. Endplay and Squeeze
(e) The Strip Squeeze

This is perhaps the most common of all pressure plays but it does require you to read the ending. Here is the classic position — with both dummy and East irrelevant:

West
♠ KJ ----
♥ AQ Declarer
♠ AQ
♥ K
♦ A (led)

In, say, a Notrump contract, you as declarer need three of the last four tricks. It appears you have only the two aces but what does West discard when you lead ♦A? If West throws ♠J, you cash ♠A (felling ♠K) then the promoted ♠Q. If West throws ♥Q, you exit with ♥K; he wins his now bare ♥A but must lead from ♠KJ round to your ♠AQ. The "expert" discard is ♥A, hoping his partner holds ♥K, to avoid being end-played. No good here, with your ♥K promoted.

On our featured deal, West led ♠Q v 3NT, East correctly overtaking with ♠K to avoid blocking the suit. Declarer ducked, but when East returned ♠6, declarer won, knowing East was now void of spades. Indeed, duck a second time and declarer cannot succeed, for he has lost his third spade exit card.

With eight top tricks, it appears declarer is reliant upon East holding ♥K. However, watch what happened when declarer cashed four rounds of clubs.

West followed to the first club, discarded a heart on the second and discarded a spade on the third. On the last club, West could not spare another spade, or he would have insufficient winners when he won ♥K. He could not bare his ♥K (although a smooth second heart discard would probably have been best — baring a king is so often the right defence in these situations). So away went a diamond.

West's diamond discard enabled declarer to cash ♦A and cross to ♦K, stripping West of his diamonds (that's the "strip" part of Strip Squeeze). At trick nine, declarer exited with ♠7. West won ♠J109 but at trick 12, West had to lead from ♥K4. Declarer won his ♥4 with dummy's ♥J and scored the last trick with his ♥A (beating West's ♥K). Nine tricks and game made. andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

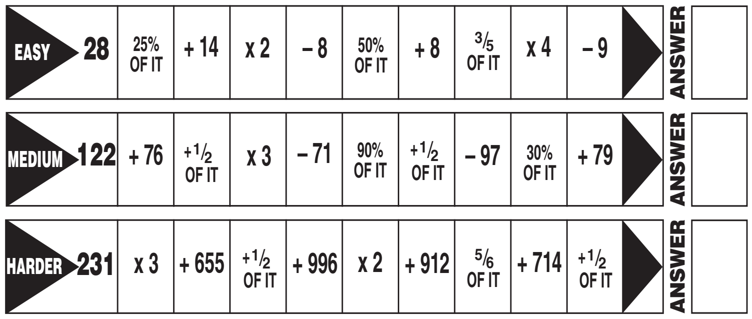
Dealer: West
Vul: Neither

North: ♠ 85 ♥ QJ53 ♦ A52 ♣ Q1064
West: ♠ QJ10932 ♥ K42 ♦ 1083 ♣ 8
East: ♠ K6 ♥ 976 ♦ QJ97 ♣ 9752
South: ♠ A74 ♥ A108 ♦ K64 ♣ AKJ3

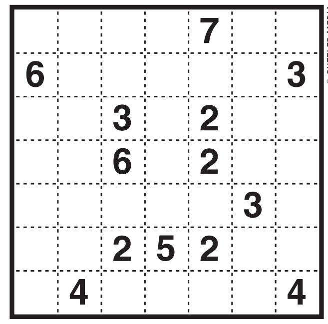
S	W	N	E
	2♠ (1)	Pass	Pass
2NT(2)	Pass	3♣(3)	Pass
3♦(4)	Pass	3NT	End

(1) Weak Two.
(2) Showing 15-19 balanced with spades stopped.
(3) Stayman (as per a 1NT or 2NT opener).
(4) No four-card major (clearly only hearts relevant here).

Brain Trainer



Cell Blocks No 4630



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

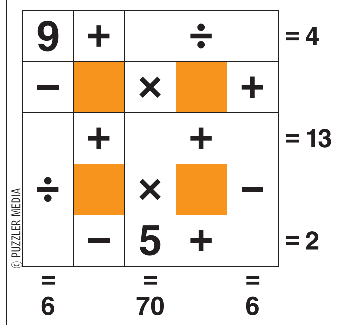
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **four** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 14 words, average; 19, good; 26, very good; 33, excellent

Yesterday's answers
alp, asp, hap, hasp, lap, pah, pal, palsy, paly, pas, pash, pass, pay, plash, plashy, play, ply, pya, salp, sap, slap, spa, spay, splash, **splashy**, splay, spy, sylph, yap

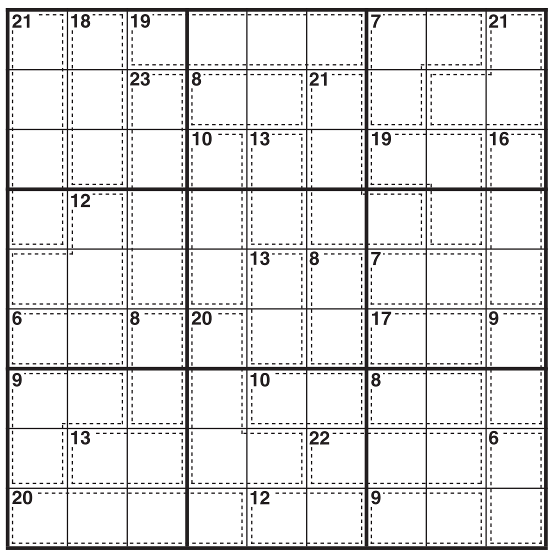
Set Square No 3310



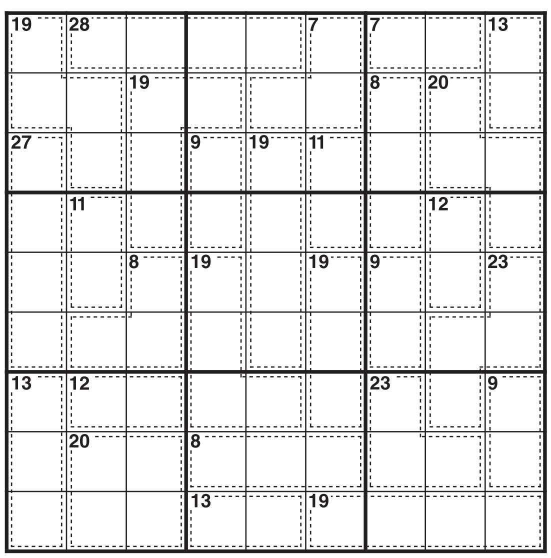
Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Tricky No 8593



Killer Deadly No 8594

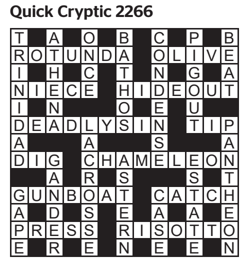


As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

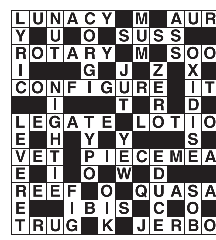
Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

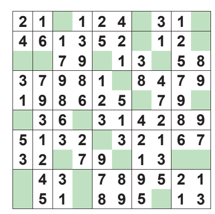
Quick Cryptic 2266



Codeword 4746



Kakuro 3306

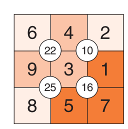


Sudoku 13,628

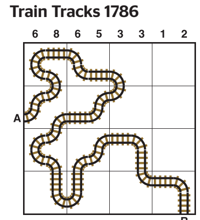
1	6	8	4	7	3	5	9	2
4	3	5	8	2	9	7	1	6
2	9	7	6	5	1	8	4	3
8	5	3	9	1	6	2	7	4
7	2	1	5	3	4	6	8	9
6	4	9	7	8	2	1	3	5
3	7	6	1	4	5	9	2	8
5	8	4	2	9	7	3	6	1
9	1	2	3	6	8	4	5	7

Quintagram
1 Mummy
2 Bridle
3 Hearty
4 Piqued
5 Discarded

Suko 3648



Train Tracks 1786

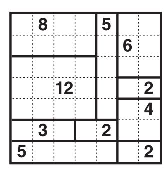


Brain Trainer
Easy 51; Medium 382; Harder 9,756

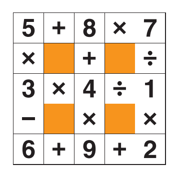
Sudoku 13,629

7	5	3	6	9	8	2	4	1
8	1	6	5	4	2	7	9	3
4	2	9	7	1	3	8	5	6
1	4	5	8	2	7	6	3	9
9	8	7	4	3	6	5	1	2
6	3	2	9	5	1	4	8	7
5	6	1	2	8	9	3	7	4
2	9	4	3	7	5	1	6	8
3	7	8	1	6	4	9	2	5

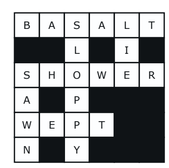
Cell Blocks 4629



Set Square 3309



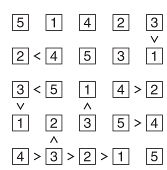
Lexica 6613



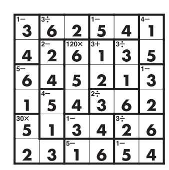
Sudoku 13,630

6	8	1	2	3	5	9	4	7
2	5	4	7	9	8	3	1	6
3	9	7	4	6	1	2	8	5
1	2	5	6	4	9	8	7	3
4	7	8	5	2	3	6	9	1
9	3	6	1	8	7	5	2	4
7	1	2	9	5	6	4	3	8
8	6	9	3	1	4	7	5	2
5	4	3	8	7	2	1	6	9

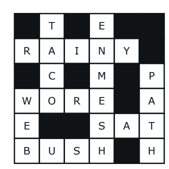
Futoshiki 4347



KenKen 5738



Lexica 6614



Killer 8591

7	6	3	4	8	9	2	5	1
8	2	1	3	5	6	9	4	7
9	4	5	2	7	1	3	6	8
1	7	2	6	4	3	5	8	9
3	5	4	7	9	8	1	2	6
6	8	9	5	1	2	4	7	3
2	1	7	9	6	4	8	3	5
4	9	6	8	3	5	7	1	2
5	3	8	1	2	7	6	9	4

Killer 8592

6	1	4	2	3	9	5	8	7
9	7	5	8	1	4	2	6	3
3	2	8	6	7	5	4	9	1
5	4	3	7	9	8	6	1	2
8	6	7	1	5	2	9	3	4
1	9	2	4	6	3	8	7	5
2	3	6	5	8	1	7	4	9
7	5	9	3	4	6	1	2	8
4	8	1	9	2	7	3	5	6

Tetonor 309

192	32	150	46
6 x 32	2 + 30	15 x 10	6 + 40
28	280	38	60
2 + 26	70 x 4	6 + 32	30 x 2
74	25	240	31
70 + 4	10 + 15	6 x 40	20 + 11
52	64	16	220
2 x 26	8 x 8	8 + 8	11 x 20

Word watch
Lobstick (a) A tree with lopped branches used as a landmark (*Collins*) **Symmetallism** (a) A monetary system based on an alloy of metals in fixed proportion (*Chambers*) **Mainour** (a) A stolen object found in possession of a thief (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move
1 ... Rh8! leads to a mating attack along the h-file. For example 2 bxc6 Qh5! forces mate: 3 Kf1 Qh1+! 4 Bxh1 Rxh1 mate. Or 2 Nxf6 Qxf6 and now the threat of 3 ... Bxg2 4 Kxg2 Rh2+! 5 Kxh2 Qxf2+ forces 3 Qc2 (to protect f2) when the ingenious 3 ... Bxg2 4 Kxg2 Rh2+! 5 Kxh2 Qf3 again leads to mate

Quiz **1** An ox. A beaver and elephant also feature on the coat of arms **2** Mersey Estuary **3** Chicken **4** Dodi **5** Windsor Castle **6** Albert Einstein. He was born in Ulm in 1879 **7** Kenny Everett **8** Charles Rennie Mackintosh **9** Walt Whitman **10** Lula or Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The Palácio da Alvorada is the official residence of Brazil's president **11** Gigi Hadid **12** Montagu's harrier (*Circus pygargus*) **13** Esther McCracken **14** Holger Rune **15** Paulina Porizkova

MindGames

For extra puzzles See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Lobstick
a A tree with lopped branches
b A sailors' stew
c An implement used in lacrosse

Symmetallism
a A monetary system based on an alloy
b A supposed ability of two people to share thoughts
c A style of geometric art

Mainour
a A stolen object found in possession of a thief
b A country estate with stables
c A leather under-glove

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Difficult No 13,631

3		1						6
	6		8			4	5	
		8		6				
					1	8	3	
			7	5	6			
	4	9	2					
				3		7		
	3	7			2		9	
8						3		4

Fiendish No 13,632

	8						9	
		6	7		9	5		
			8	6	4			
	4						6	
9	7		2		6		8	3
		2				3		
	3			5			7	
1		7		3		9		5

Super fiendish No 13,633

			9					3
			7		6		4	8
				8		7	6	
5		8		2		4		
				7				
		2		5		3		6
	2	5		3				
1	4		8		5			
6					1			

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 The coat of arms of Oxford shows which animal crossing a river?

2 Liverpool sits on the eastern side of which river estuary?

3 The traditional Latin American dish, *arroz con pollo*, is rice served with which meat?

4 Princess Diana's romantic partner Emad Fayed was known by which nickname?

5 Which castle houses the Royal Archives, the Royal Library and the Royal Photograph Collection?

6 Ulm's Bahnhofstrasse is home to Max Bill's memorial (1979) to which physicist?

FRANZISKA KRUG/GETTY IMAGES



15

7 Born in Seaforth, Merseyside, which DJ starred in the 1984 comedy horror film *Bloodbath at the House of Death*?

8 78 Derngate, Northampton is the only house in England designed by which Scottish architect?

9 Which American poet wrote "I am large, I contain multitudes" in *Song of Myself*?

10 Which president-elect is returning to reside in "The Palace of the Dawn"?

11 Which US model recently founded the luxury knitwear label Guest in Residence?

12 What has the RSPB called the UK's "rarest breeding bird of prey"?

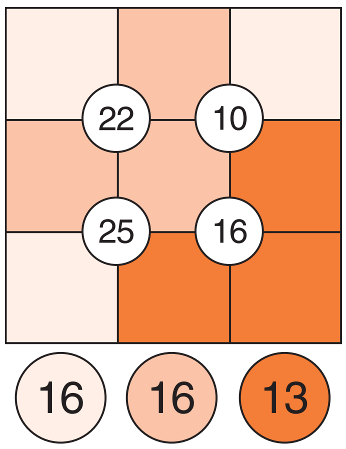
13 Which British playwright's first two plays were *The Willing Spirit* (1936) and *Quiet Wedding* (1938)?

14 Which Danish teenager defeated Novak Djokovic to win the 2022 Paris Masters, his first ATP Masters title?

15 Which Czech-born supermodel is pictured?

Answers on page 15

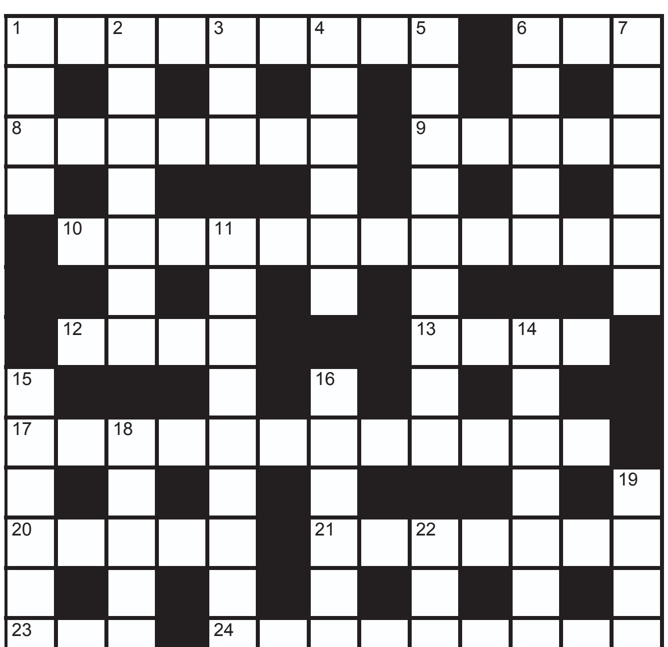
Suko
No 3648



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

The Times Quick Cryptic
No 2267 by Izetti



Across
1 Money prohibited, we hear, for musicians (5,4)
6 Youngster to jog but not run (3)
8 Petition concerning expedition? (7)
9 Story of competent female at the fore (5)
10 Team resigned, being involved in a row (12)
12 Expert editor returning to newspaper (4)
13 Greek characters contributing to the task (4)
17 Celebrity chef perhaps may have art treasure arranged round middle of house (12)
20 Dish available in US city no more (5)
21 Scot meets English fellow in ancient territory (7)
23 Animal losing tail in river (3)
24 Trick by French father — daughter rushed off (9)

Down
1 Assumed to be tedious person (4)
2 Get a group of singers to listen to (7)
3 Observe heads of state expressing enthusiasm (3)
4 Flowering plants needed for Easter Sunday (6)
5 Turning fifteen, vacant daughter is not the same (9)
6 Item of furniture firm when the top is removed (5)
7 Deal with unknown character, making agreement (6)
11 A curate is naughty — we appreciate the risks (9)
14 Danseur dancing apart (7)
15 In favour of bottom of river being delved into (6)
16 Breach of law over area that is disputed region (6)
18 What you must do, only having five to fill in (5)
19 Woman with aim to get around India (4)
22 Firm with quiet officer (3)

*Yesterday's solution on page 15**

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

The latest story when you're on the move.



Stay well informed wherever you are, whatever you're doing.

A digital subscription gives you the best of The Times and The Sunday Times for less than £1 a day including live updates, newsletters, commenting and puzzles.

Try it free for one month at thetimes.co.uk/trial

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

Subscribe with Google

Offer available for new subscribers only. UK residents aged 18+ only. Pay nothing for your first month then £26 per month for the 7 day digital subscription. Visit store.thetimes.co.uk for full subscription T&Cs. This is not a time limited promotion. We reserve the right to change the subscription price with 30 days' notice.